

# Public Libraries

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## The Tax on Ideas\*

Edwin H. Anderson, director of the New York public library

Russia and the United States are the only powers of the first class which impose a duty on books published beyond their borders. Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Japan, the South African Union, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand impose no such duties. But Spain, Portugal, Italy, Brazil, and some minor countries of the two hemispheres, with Russia and our own country, pursue a less enlightened policy. For a nation whose people pride themselves on being advanced and progressive, are we not in strange company?

Before the civil war the duty on foreign books was 10 per cent ad valorem. During the war it was increased to 25 per cent, where it remained, as far as books in the English language are concerned, till the act of 1913. It was essentially a war tax, and doubtless justified by the circumstances; but it has taken 50 years to lower the duty from the war tax level, and it is still 50 per cent higher than before the war. It is not a tariff for revenue, since the income to the government from this source is inconsiderable. If it is a protective tariff, who is protected, and why? We get all the light we need on this question from the hearings before the Ways and Means committee of the House of Representatives last year. For instance, the American bible manufacturers contended that if the duty on bibles, printed and bound by the underpaid labor of Eng-

land, was reduced, the bible-making industry in this country would be entirely destroyed. Has some of the pauper humor of Europe been smuggled into this country? The price of bibles to a hundred million people is to be maintained in the interest of a few hundred people engaged in their manufacture! What is best for the hundred million does not count. The case is typical in its absurdity. We put a tax on the enlightenment of all the people, to serve the selfish interests of a few. Among a proud people it is not an inspiring sight to see an industry begging for, or insisting upon, an advantage in the race with its foreign competitors.

Our book industry has not thriven on this policy. The number of books published annually in the United States is only about six per cent of the total annual production of the world. In proportion to population, Switzerland publishes annually ten times as many books as we; the Scandinavian countries together six times as many; Germany, France, the British Empire, Holland, Italy, Austria and Japan, each from three and one-half to five times as many. Even Roumania, in proportion to population, publishes over three times, and Russia over one and one-half times as many. While we tail the procession in book production, we import annually from the other countries of the world only a paltry six cents' worth for each of us. In the face of these facts we cannot claim high rank as readers of books.

The tariff has signally failed to promote the publishing, the manufacture, or the sale of books in this country. Bookstores are being supplanted by newsstands; for while we publish only six

\*An abstract of the presidential address at the Washington conference.

per cent of the annual production of books, we publish 60 per cent of the world's periodical literature. Our tariff on English books bears heaviest on those who are least able to pay it—our scholars, our teachers, our scientific investigators. Elsewhere the most enlightened governments do everything in their power to encourage such men as national assets. Here our policy actually discourages them. An enlightened policy would put books in a class by themselves and on a plane above the ordinary commodities of the world. Instead of being taxed they should be privileged, not for the encouragement of an industry but for the education of the people.

#### The Present Trend\*

Charles K. Bolton, librarian, Boston Athenaeum

Fifty years of significant development in the public library form an era of growth along technical lines as well as in the testing of public responsibility, through which we have come to trust our own people as no nation ever did before. We have come to understand something about the proper housing of books, the art of bringing their presence and value home to people. We have opened wide the doors to children, little children, extending our influence through branch libraries to every corner of the big city and every school house.

We have achieved much in the way of catalogs and systems of classification that appeal to people beyond our borders. We have felt with growing insistence the call of our foreign population, and the claim of our business men to a share of our attention.

Coöperation is influencing our methods, the Library of Congress has spread its catalog cards across the continent, as well as its union lists. Schemes for coöperative selection and purchase of books are taking shape.

We have had the theory of cen-

tralization of authority, to the point where all these things delay results, to the limit of usefulness, and now, as boys say, we're expected "to pay the freight."

Let us not accept the delusion that centralization and coöperation are everything and local pride, ambition and initiative nothing.

The significant thing about libraries which catches the eye of the visitor is our splendid library architecture.

We are in an era of great central library buildings, beautiful to look upon, impressive in their mission, and admirable as signs of our higher life, but I believe the day of such buildings will wane. In a generation such buildings will be poorly placed for the work, behind in the best methods of heating, ventilation and fireproofing, or even out of date in the art of housing books. Monument that it is, it is not what counts most today in the public library sentiment. The living library is not built of marble nor can it be left stranded by the din of business nor the retreat of fashion. Beautiful buildings we should have, but not through sacrifices of salaries and service.

We are, I believe, to center our money, our ability and our treasure in branches. The branch is to be a civic center, alive from dawn to midnight. Here will be the books for the people of the vicinity. Here also will be headquarters for clubs, representing both sexes, all ages and all the languages of that famous tower of Babel.

But even so, the branch cannot do it all. I am convinced that the neighborhood house, under the right leadership, will deal entirely with the foreign bred as no librarian, missionary as she often is, will ever be able to do it. The library and the school must face each local condition with local wisdom, not forgetting, as Miss Addams says, that "Things which make men alike are finer than those which keep them apart."

We lay great stress on the illiteracy about us, but it is not this so much as dissimilarity of ideas that menaces our government. For that reason, the hu-

\*Abstract from address before A. L. A. May 27.

man relation between the librarian and the reader will be a vital factor. The foreign born reader craves, if he could but speak it, the standard library rather than the latest book. The latest in type and paper and illustration may attract his eye but he will be content only with literature that has stood the test of time.

The energetic man in the library today wants to adopt the methods of business. We are on the threshold of house to house delivery. We hear about the value of rural free delivery, but to rob the farmer of his daily or even once a week trip to the post office, and to permit him to live in isolation is a distinct loss to farm life. If the farmer will not go to the library, the books had better go to him, but in serving him thus, let us remember that there are disadvantages in the system. If we believe in the inspiration which comes from the actual presence of libraries, we cannot conceive of any adequate substitute through house to house delivery, nor can the letter carrier equal the personality of the librarian as a guide and friend.

Recently, the library as a practical tool has dared to offer aid to the man of business. A forward step, though one beset with pitfalls, is the legislative reference movement, in which the expert on books hopes to place before the lawmakers the latest and best information on economic matters. The believer in popular government must look with some mistrust on the permanent group of experts at the state capital. A permanent reference librarian was asked if he and the governor did not have much influence upon legislation. He replied that between them, they practically dictated new laws, and then he laughingly said, "I dictate to the governor." Pride of power may easily in such a situation, rob the excellence of the scheme of its just fruits. Democracy has reason to shun the path to bureaucracy, for the motives of mere man in a democracy are not always more unselfish than those of man in an aristocracy.

Our public documents or government documents, rather, represent scholarship of a high order, and they are of sur-

prising interest. Can we not have abstracts issued in attractive form? The mining population needs one group of abstracts, the agricultural, another. The shipper and manufacturer cry for information buried in yellow buckram covers. Many documents for immigrants cannot be had unless scientifically asked for. The best farmers in Western Massachusetts are Poles. They want information which cannot be placed before them in the natural way. The labor unions forced into the laws a provision that such information cannot be offered to our farmers, but must be withheld until the workers themselves ask for it.

In a broad way, we may say that training is for clerical and sociological work rather than for administrative positions, leaving it to the sifting of experience to bring leaders to the front. We need librarians with a combination of sanity in business affairs, imagination, faith and leadership. If some cannot understand sympathetically the foreign born of our population, we need to search out men and women who can.

At Gardner, Mass., a meeting of immigrants was called to study the adaptation of the public library to their needs. A large number came, including leaders of the various races, but not one of the 12 trustees of the local library attended the meeting!

Leaders are needed who do not limit their horizon to the library field, nor to the work for which they are paid. From "Who's Who" in America, I have selected the records of 25 librarians in the larger cities. Here are the results: Fourteen belong to non-library societies, showing themselves broad enough to have interests that are non-professional; seven have held offices of a civic nature; eight have written more or less on non-library subjects, and five are well known writers on technical library affairs. Three are engaged in remunerative avocations. The record is by no means a bad one, though it might be better. It seems to show that even the leaders as a whole confine themselves rather closely to their remunerative efforts, and leave to lawyers, doctors, clergymen and mer-

chants the great field of work that must be done without pay and without praise to uplift the world.

In the big libraries we need library knowledge, plus administrative training and a broad vision. In small libraries we need library knowledge plus neighborly spirit. We need a system of control, perhaps advisory rather than authoritative, which shall combine considerable ability in suggestion with knowledge of the local conditions. The state library commission, with its traveling agent, meets the need only in part. We ought to have more continuous oversight. For this work a district superintendent or director of libraries is proposed. The educational work in a group of small towns is managed by a superintendent of schools, and if the fear of encroachment upon prerogatives of the local trustees can be allayed, there would be good results along similar lines in our development of the rural library.

A serious feature of all our public service is the laying of emphasis upon the individual instead of upon the work of his office. The community to be served, the taxpayer himself, sink into insignificance when an aged public servant is threatened with removal for incompetency. When we begin to understand that from an economic point of view, a pension is, or may be, granted to promote efficiency, as well as to be humane, we shall meet the expenditure more readily and shall awaken many dormant institutions.

I wish we might have—foolish as it may sound—an official who's who of librarians and assistants, a central record for every biographical detail of every worker in our profession, to which the trustee or chief librarian could turn for information. I understand that the French government follows every teacher in France step by step with such a record through his entire career. To make such a record creditable is a

worthy ambition, and leads to advancement.

Finally what are we to be in the future? Are we to be scholars or philanthropists? Are we to be administrators or civic leaders? We cannot be all alike, nor should we try. But we can be positive and constructive. We can have character and we can get results. So that when the stranger from another land, or the historian of a later age, studies the record of our time the colors of the picture we leave will be distinct and clear, or even brilliant.

If we believe that all human impulse and all movements are in cycles or spirals we may hope that, whatever decrease in scholarship we may detect during the adjustment of the public library to the present needs of popular uplift, there will in good time be a reaction. Scholarship cannot be alienated from the library for long, even though the library become a social centre. Wherever books perpetuate the finest thought of all the ages a library will bid men to read and to think.

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### The Reading of Boys\*

E. K. Mathiews, Boy Scout librarian

If you take gasoline and feed it to an automobile a drop at a time, you get splendid results because you have confined and directed it with intelligent care and caution. Take the same quantity of gasoline and just pour it out and you either don't get anywhere or you get somewhere you don't care to go. Here is an apt illustration of the proper use of the elements that must enter in to make good books for boys. For let it be understood that the good book for the average boy must be one that, as the *Century Magazine* says, is "wholesomely perilous." And what is meant is this: the red-blooded boy, the boy in his early teens, must have his thrill, he craves excitement, has a passion for action, "something must be doing" all the time, and in nothing is this more true than in his reading. The man who writes books for boys that really "get them coming,"

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\*Extract from address before the Children's librarians' section, A. L. A. meeting at Washington.



must always work with combustibles, with explosive materials.

The difference between a "Treasure Island" and a "Nick Carter" is not a difference in the elements but the use each author makes of them. Stevenson works with combustibles but, as in the case of using gasoline, he confines them, directs them with care and caution always thinking of how he may use them in such a way as will be of most good to the boy. In the case of the "Nick Carter," the author works with the same materials, but with no moral purpose, with no intelligence. No effort is made to confine or direct or control these highly explosive elements. For all the author of this type of reading desires is to write something that will "get by" his publisher with another "Thriller," sure to interest the boy. The result is, as boys read these books their imaginations are literally "blown out," "shot to pieces," "burned out," and they go into life more terribly crippled than though by some material explosion they had lost a hand or foot. For, having had his imagination "burned out," not only will the boy be greatly handicapped in business, but the whole world of art in its every form almost is closed to him. Why are there so few men readers of the really good books or even of the passing novels sometimes of reallest worth? Largely, I think, because the imagination of so many men as boys received such brutal treatment at the hands of authors and publishers and booksellers who have no concern as to what they write or publish or sell so long as it returns constantly the expected financial gain.

Such facts should be brought to the attention of parents, together with information as to just how these cheap books are written. Recently a man came into my office in New York. He said he had been chosen by a certain publishing house to complete a series of Boy Scout story books. I asked him who had been writing the series before he had undertaken the work. He replied that that man was now in Bloomingdale,

the asylum for the insane in New York City. I happened to know yet another man, a reporter in Texas, had also been the author of some of the books in the series, who, with the original author, and the lunatic, made three men who had tried their hand on this popular series of books, for they had been selling by the tens of thousands. Now a fourth man was to try his hand at the business of furnishing "thrills" for "so much per". The other authors had exhausted their supply, so a new man was requisitioned into service. And who is he? The press agent of Buffalo Bill's show! I need only to add that when the final books of the series appeared, they were most certainly of the sort to make the boy's blood tingle.

But some of the men who write these books are more prolific, rivaling Balzac in their output. I know of one such author who writes under twelve names. Still another employs a staff of writers. He furnishes the plot, etc.; they for the most part, do the writing. The particular work of this literary genius being to edit, add yet a few more thrills, then find a title that will be "up to the minute" in its power of appeal to the boy. By such methods, last year, I have been told, this author manufactured 41 books, which are now selling at prices ranging from 25 to 60 cents.

In order that the widest possible publicity might be given to the foregoing facts, our movement the last week in May is to promote in all the cities of the South I recently visited a Boy Scout week in which, beginning on Sunday, the ministers will preach upon the worth of good books for boys, and through the week the newspapers will publish special articles, incorporating some of the facts presented in this paper. The motion picture houses of the several cities will also run lantern slides calling attention to our *Every Boy's Library*. In time we hope to make effective the same kind of publicity in every city of the country. It will call for sincere, earnest effort, free from pyrotechnics, from every one concerned.

### The Library and the Immigrant\*

John Foster Carr, director, Immigrant Education Society, New York

The library was long a sort of institutional Lord Bacon. All learning was its province. Now its province has become all life—first of all, American life—and it is already the greatest of our popular universities. It is ever seeking larger powers of usefulness, and striking is its development along simpler and humbler lines.

In the new duties that immigration has brought, it is unquestionably meeting the greatest educational problem yet unattempted in this country. The Census Bureau states the size and significance of that problem when it announces that there are four million foreign-born white men of voting age in the United States, who are not citizens, and two million men and women either foreign-born, or wholly or partly of foreign parentage, who are illiterates.

It is of the very first national importance that the foreign-born who are to remain among us, should be made an effective part of our democracy—a vital part of our own people. But how shall they gain quick interest in our collective life, our citizenship, our government? How shall they be given our English and a knowledge of American conditions that will make their daily life easier, improve their working skill and wages and reduce by one-half, as congressional investigation has shown that English does, their liability to industrial accident?

The change for the immigrant in coming to America is most often a change from the most primitive agricultural life known on this planet to the most rapid moving urban life of our western civilization. Here country is already city and wonderful are the educative forces of our city life.

When Firmin Roz, keenest of French publicists, wrote the other year of the marvels of the United States, he put in the very forefront of his preface the

most astounding thing he had found: "There," he said, "the aged and outworn races of the world repair, cast aside old age like a garment, and renew their youth in American life." I believe that if you see the working life of our foreign-born at its normal, all of these toilers seem in marvelously rapid process of Americanization. I should like to give a detailed picture of the swift change.

But rapid as the process is, they are often in close touch with the worst and not the best side of our civilization; they often become more or less one of the class of which economically they happen to form part. How often you will find a man of good foreign education speaking an English marked with the accent of our tenements—an accent that is but the type of a vital thing. They too often lose the restraints and ideals of the old world and find nothing to replace them.

What of the material of our immigration? Attempting simpler and simpler work, more and more widely do you reach those nearly on the minimum line of education. What then of illiteracy? The facts lead me to optimism. There is, first, something hopeful in the fact of statistics—that at present the highest percentage of illiteracy in admitted immigrants goes with the lowest percentage of deportations. In other words, illiteracy does not show any necessary connection with other undesirable qualities.

In this great work of education, a problem of many sides, partly solved these last years by the wonderful new educative forces of our urban life, the library has a far greater opportunity than the school. Friendly and helpful, its aid is more inviting and less formal. It makes less strenuous demand upon the attention of a man who is often very tired after a long day's work. It welcomes those who think themselves too old for school. It is open throughout the year, where the night school at most is open only seven months of the year. It can furnish papers and books in the immigrant's own language and thus provide a familiar and homely air.

\*An address before the American library association, Washington, May 26, 1914.

A common meeting ground with Americans, it gives him a sense of joint right and ownership with us in the best things of our country, and this with no suggestion of patronizing interest. The librarian, at least, has no offensive theory of the immigrant's need of civilization and moral uplift. "Sir," was the complaint of an Italian workingman, "these investigators are as smoke in our eyes." But neither curious nor officious, full of good will and usefulness, her power of help is boundless. Best of all, I think, the library can put the immigrant in effective touch with American democracy, and American ideals; and so, better than any other agency, destroy the impression of heartless commercialism, that many of our immigrants, in their colonies, continually assert is the main characteristic of our civilization.

Work for our immigrants is not wholly a new thing in American libraries. It dates back many years; but it is new in the extent of its present enterprise and interest. Its progress has never been without opposition. Many have insisted that the immigrant should have no books in his own tongue. Many have wished him to forget everything he was or thought before coming to America, and they have been jealous of foreign languages, insisting on English.

We sometimes forget that no naturalized citizen can ever be a good American unless he has first been a good Italian or German or Greek, unless he has the reverent instinct of loyalty to the land of his birth. If the immigrant is to think alike with us, if he is to be a good American, we must give him some sufficient reason for respecting and loving our land. And how better than through the library can this country of ours be made alluring, accepted in love? Alluring certainly is the library's invitation to personal progress and self-betterment, and in its friendly room are an American environment and the atmosphere of our spoken English.

It is the unvarying experience of librarians that every attempt made in

opening the libraries to our recent immigrants has had large and unexpected success. Providence reports that the hunger for books among the foreign-born is keen and universal. Boston, welcoming the unskilled laborer as well as the cultured student of the classics, has had striking progress in these new efforts the last three or four years, and incidentally has discovered—eloquent testimony to the ambition in the homes of these workers—that the "children of foreign-born parents read a better class of books than their American brothers and sisters." A Brooklyn branch lets it be known that men coming from work with their dinner pails are welcome. And at once the library reaches a point and has success of service before unknown. An evening paper of the cheaper sort publishes an editorial in praise of Buckle's *History of Civilization*, and before six o'clock the same night another Brooklyn library in the heart of a colony of foreign-born has given out its two copies of Buckle, and filed six reserve cards. It was a workman grimy from the shops who returned Hamerston's "Intellectual Life" to the library in a Massachusetts town with: "That's what I call a good book."

The result of broad and aggressive work in the New York public library has had an instant return. During 1913, as that report records, the circulation of Italian books increased by nearly 10 thousand—a remarkable growth when a moment's calculation shows you that it amounts to nearly 27 per cent, falling less than 4 per cent behind the Yiddish read by the most eager frequenters of our libraries.

And here another significant matter may be learned, useful for quoting to those who think the dominance of our English threatened by the foreign languages. In this same report the large total is set down of the circulation of German books by far the largest circulation for books in foreign tongues. Yet, figuring again, it appears that for all the new inducements and attractions of the library, the annual gain had barely passed one-half of one per cent.

The community life of our foreign colonies rapidly passes. Its picturesqueness and foreign customs vanish, its theatres and festivals. Representing our earlier immigration the plays of Harri-gan have gone with German tragedy and comedy—gone, too, the German and Irish comedians of our old variety stage—gone with the generation that could understand their fun. Italian picturesqueness is on the wane. Its street pageants are not what they were. The music of the colony dies, Tannenbaum and Wearing of the Green. And in spite of every effort its speech is lost.

But we were talking of the reading of German books. The generation of the great mass of our German immigrants is, of course, rapidly passing—so rapidly that by the last census, in spite of an immigration of seven hundred thousand for the decade, our total German-born population decreased by over three hundred thousand. This goes far to explain a stationary circulation. But it is also clear that these same people, the most literate, and the most tenacious of their national culture of all our earlier immigrants, have come so far into the practice of the English language, forgetting their own, that further increase of German readers in our libraries is hardly to be looked for. It is plain that the menace to us is the complete disappearance of the foreign languages now current. For his own use and self-respect, the immigrant should be encouraged not to forget his origin. We should no more be jealous of Italian or Jewish or Polish societies than we are of St. Andrew, or St. Nicholas, St. George or Holland societies.

It is important for the immigrant to learn English more rapidly, and the library can greatly help in this. It is also important that the knowledge of foreign languages should be seriously cultivated among us. It could now easily be made a national accomplishment as it is in many countries of the Continent. Our great cosmopolitan nation should be in direct and immediate touch with the science and social progress and liter-

ature of other great nations. We should plant in this vigorous soil of ours their love and understanding of art and music. Here again the library should serve us.

But such results as those attained in New York with the foreign-born only come as the consequence of hard and earnest work. There are difficulties a plenty in the way. Our foreign-born working men and women oftentimes know nothing even of the existence of the library. Or they have a strange fear to enter, and need much persuasion before they can believe that they will be welcome visitors in such splendid buildings. Often, too, they seem to fear that the library may be connected with a church that is trying to proselytize them, or that some advantage may be taken of them. They need to learn that the library, like the school, is non-sectarian and non-political; that it is the property of the public, and that full privilege of it belongs to every man and woman and reading child. For this reason their priests and rabbis make the librarians' most helpful friends. Once the immigrant workman is persuaded to enter the library, he needs immediate personal attention. He needs to have the different rooms of the library in some way explained, the few simple rules given him to read in his own language. Index cards are impossible to him. The open shelf is generally almost useless. He knows little or nothing of the proper use of books; often he has never even handled one. He requires the librarian's aid in the mysteries of selecting and registering books.

But how bring the immigrant to the library? In a number of places, very ambitiously, lists have been made, classified by nationalities, of all the foreign-born families living within the radius served by the library; and to each family an attractive postal card notice has been sent. But in many of our cities such work would be an almost impossible task. In such cases, and generally, very effective publicity has been found in the distribution of cards and leaflets bearing lists of appealing books. These have

been sent to the multitude of national societies and clubs of various kinds that exist, as well as to drug, stationery and grocery stores, to the rooms of trade unions and to factories. Many librarians are regularly sending boxes of books to such very practical distributing centers. And public schools, night schools, parochial schools are being pressed more and more widely into the service, and the teachers' help very effectively claimed.

In some of the New York branches rooms have been assigned for the use of literary and historical societies, and here meetings with music have been held for the discussion of literature, history, folk lore and social questions. By one admirable and popular plan a special visit is invited of a group of men and women of the same nationality. The librarian receives them and one of their own countrymen explains in native tongue the privileges of the library. Most of our foreign friends are used to being read to, and an adaptation of the story hour has brought excellent results.

In New York, also, lessons in English have been given, the library itself often supplying the text-books needed. This has promptly caused a greater demand for simple books in English. Librarians report that every effort such as these described not only increases membership, and revives the use of cards that had fallen into disuse, but gives a profitable opportunity for intensive study of the neighborhood.

Successful experiments of great variety have been made in providing evening entertainments organized directly by the library. These have included simple lectures, often illustrated by the stereopticon. Very popular among these lectures have been those on the agricultural opportunities of our country.

There have been addresses by men, often leading men, of different nationalities to those of their own speech; musical entertainments, vocal and instrumental; dramatic recitations, with national music on the phonograph; exhibitions of photographs of Italian art and

lace. As many mothers have children too young to leave alone, there is the suggestive instance of the library at Mount Vernon, that has invited parents to bring their little ones to the children's room, where they were separately entertained.

To develop this work efficiently within the borders of the state, Massachusetts through its Free public library commission is carefully organizing effort, learning the exact location of the foreign colonies, their nationalities, and library facilities. The active interest of the leaders of the various groups has been secured; and with the help of a traveling secretary specially provided by the new law to take up this educational work, the results achieved within a single year have been so very promising that it is hoped that these efforts may be greatly extended. And where one state has so practically led the way, others must soon follow.

For all, slowly or rapidly, their life merges with ours. We are apt to forget that a man becomes an American, that his blood becomes American, when the judge signs his second citizenship paper. Whether he becomes a good American or a bad American depends in some measure upon ourselves. The great virtues and ideals that we are fond of thinking characteristically our own are often equally the national ideals of other lands. *Patrie* or *Vaterland* is the same. Pole and Jew have a sacred tradition and a land, but no country. Italy, too, has its great cult of patriotism, that sum of all national qualities that it calls *Italianità*, but *Italianità* and *Americanism* are hard to distinguish in a moral definition. And if we find in America some special glory and leading, even some tang of the air, that no other land could give, we may be sure that our nation, for all the races of our origin, will never become great on its cosmopolitan plan, unless we respect and nourish the culture and all the precious heritage of the centuries, developed by other countries at such heavy sacrifice, and brought us, sometimes humbly and indirectly, by the millions of our immigrants.



### Civil Service in Public Libraries\*

Chairman Porter. We have all read with a great deal of interest articles in the library journals on the subject of civil service by Mr Jennings, who is the librarian of the Seattle library. During the year 1913 we had occasion in Ohio to use what Mr Jennings has said very extensively and very successfully. We finally succeeded in getting for our librarians what they call "unclassified service," by which the library service of the state is placed under the unclassified service, and not subject to the municipal or the state civil service. This does not at all mean that we do not have the interior civil service as we term it there with us for we do have that most strictly in Cincinnati, at least. I have pleasure in introducing Mr Jennings of the Seattle library.

I have Mr Porter's permission to talk informally this morning, since I have covered this subject once formally at the Pasadena conference, and any of you who want further information on the subject can get that paper in the Pasadena "Proceedings of A. L. A."

I made the mistake there of leading up to my subject and giving my conclusions last, in the usual way. I found I was somewhat misunderstood. So, this morning, I am going to reverse it and state at the outset what my conclusions are.

First, I want to read the title of this paper as it appears on the program: "Should libraries be under municipal and state civil service?"

I suppose it means "or" state; they should not want to be under both. That would be an awful calamity. (Laughter.) But it does not ask "Should they be under civil service?" but "Should they be under *municipal* or *state* civil service?" I believe in civil service principles. A large library especially should have a civil service system within its own control, within control of the board of trustees. I do not believe in control by an outside commission, either state or municipal. Now, I hope I can make that clear. I

believe in the *principles* of civil service, but I think they should be in the control of the board of trustees. It might be called unfilial for me to take that stand, since I went into library service 25 years ago through a civil service examination, and I worked for 16 years in libraries under civil service. However, I have also served for nine years in libraries that were *not* under civil service, so that I have had an opportunity to judge the merits of the two systems.

When I went to Seattle seven years ago, I did not know until I got there that the library was under civil service, and it was somewhat of a blow to make that discovery. It took two years to get rid of the system and substitute our own internal civil service, and in bringing this about, I found that the first difficulty was to convince the board of trustees. Most good men and good women believe in the principles of civil service. As soon as you begin to make an attack on civil service ideas, there is a hubbub. But we made a careful investigation at first, before presenting the matter to the board of trustees, and we sent one of those questionnaires that you all welcome, to 53 different libraries in the country, including all of the large libraries, all of the libraries that we knew were under civil service, and all the libraries that we thought of as efficient public libraries. Only 9 of those 53 libraries were under civil service, and 8 of the 9 reported that the results were not satisfactory. The ninth one was rather non-committal. Later on I had a chance to visit that ninth library, and the assistant who showed me through, who had been there some 16 or 17 years, told me that the contrast between the old system, when they were not under civil service, and the new system under civil service, was very marked; that the old system was much the better. So that of the nine libraries that had civil service none was satisfied with the results.

Of those 53 libraries, 28 were in towns having civil service commissions, but 19 of those 28 cities having civil service commissions had specifically exempted

\*Discussion in trustee's section.

the public library from the operation of the civil service law.

The reasons for the exemption, of course, are obvious to most of us. They took the ground that the requirements for library work included the question of personality, and other questions of gumption and tact and industry—qualifications that could not be tested by civil service examination, and that the libraries were educational institutions, like the schools, and should be exempt in the same manner and for the same reasons that the schools are exempt.

The most notable exemption from civil service in this country, I think, is the Library of Congress, and if any of you are threatened with municipal civil service it will be worth your while to read the Congressional hearing on the subject of placing the Library of Congress under civil service, in 1897. Prominent librarians from all over the country appeared before that committee, and their statements were very vigorous and to the point. The result, of course, was, as you know, that the Library of Congress was exempted from civil service and the appointments were placed in the hands of the librarian, without restrictions. You know the result of that action. The Library of Congress has been free from criticism, has been efficient, and there is no question but that it is more efficient than most of the government departments that are under civil service.

The British Museum is not, as far as I can find, under civil service rules, although civil service is applied to the other English departments, and the British Museum might be called a department.

The arguments claimed for civil service are that it eliminates politics, that it selects the best possible candidate for the particular position to be filled, that it protects the employees from removal for insufficient reasons; that it is democratic, that the opportunity for appointment is open to every citizen, and that it saves time.

A great many of these arguments in

the practical working out of the system fall down. It does eliminate politics. That is the best argument, and to my mind the only argument in favor of municipal or state civil service for a library. It is better than the spoils system, but it is merely a stepping stone, and I think we ought to go on to something better. If civil service were the ideal system, it would be used by business men. It may be that to some extent the principles are used by business men, but it is always in their own control. It is absurd, I think, to claim that it selects the best possible candidate. My experience has been that the best possible candidates will not take the examination, that an examination cannot determine which is the best candidate.

It does protect the employees from removal. That, instead of being an argument in favor of civil service, I think is an argument against it. If the employee is the important question that we have to consider, then that may be an argument, but I think the efficiency of the library is the burden that is placed on the trustees and on the librarian, not to find positions for particular people and to see that they are secure in those positions.

It is admitted, even by the advocates of civil service, that it is not an ideal system.

I will not attempt to read some extracts that I have brought on the question, from Senator Lodge and others, who have been advocates of civil service, but the extracts indicate that the civil service enthusiasts themselves realize that civil service is not the ideal system, that it is merely better than the spoils system.

If I were to attempt to outline the objections to civil service, although there are a great many of them, I would be inclined to name four principal objections to the system as applied by an outside commission: First, that the examination is no test of ability. Many good library assistants, who can do good work in a library, are very much at a loss when they try to tell or write about

their work. Another person, who may be very ready at writing on library work or any other subject, could pass a high examination, but they may be lacking in tact, personality, industry, gumption—any one of a dozen qualifications that are desirable for library workers, and you cannot tell anything about it by the examination.

The geographical limitation is another absurd principle of most civil service systems. The civil service enthusiasts are coming to the idea that that must be abolished. That is what we have been meeting just recently in Seattle. The idea that we should go outside for library workers did not appeal to some of the people there, and there are always people who object to the idea of importing trained help for library work. Anybody, of course, can do library work!

The absurdity of the geographical limitation, I think, can easily be shown. A city, say the city of San Francisco—because this applies there—cannot import people from outside for their library. A person to be appointed on the staff of the San Francisco public library must have lived in San Francisco for at least one year. Now they are limited, as you see, to residents of San Francisco.

The state of New York by its civil service requirements in making appointments to the State library at Albany is limited to the citizens of the state of New York. It is only when the civil service commission is willing to waive that rule that they can go outside of the state of New York to fill positions.

The Federal Government, of course, can select from the entire country. You can see that the city is helplessly handicapped in trying to secure efficient assistants. It cannot go outside of its limits. The state is handicapped, but not quite so badly. It can go anywhere in the state. It cannot compete with other states and get assistants from the outside. The government is the only one in that geographical limitation scheme that has any freedom in secur-

ing qualified helpers. This geographical limitation is merely another kind of spoils system. In it the citizens say "We pay the salaries, we ought to get the appointments."

The third argument against civil service is the difficulty of removing inefficient assistants. The old-fashioned civil service regulation was that the removed assistant would have the right of appeal, and if she or he appealed the Civil service commission would grant a trial, at which the librarian would appear, and perhaps the trustees, and state their side of the case. The assistant would come and state her ideas, and each side would have the privilege of bringing witnesses and giving evidence. I think that is a situation that is intolerable. No self-respecting man wants to appear at a civil service trial against a young lady who may have been on his staff and whom he considered inefficient and whom he has removed. To have a public trial of the matter is absurd and undignified and not at all in keeping with the spirit of library work.

The civil service enthusiasts have discovered that that regulation needs to be changed, and they made those changes in the model charter outlined for the city of Los Angeles some two or three years ago. The civil service experts who went there to help draft a model charter recommended that the power of removal be placed entirely in the hands of the executive officer. That is the idea embodied in most of the new city charters, that the appointing officer has full power of removal. He must file a written statement of reasons for removal. Then the assistant has the right of filing an answer, and that is as far as it goes. The matter is left entirely with the appointing power. There is no appeal, no trial. These changes that the civil service enthusiasts are recommending, to my mind, merely show that civil service is a mechanical scheme for doing something that requires a great deal of thought and judgment. If you think that you can set up a machine that will do the most important part of your li-

brary work it is to my mind absurd. I do not think there is any more important duty confronting a librarian or board of trustees than the selection of their staff, the personnel of the workers; and to put that in the hands of an outside board, who will do it on the machine basis, is something that we ought to protest against.

I think that this association should come out with a more vigorous statement on this question than it has thus far. The committee on relations between the library and the municipality that reported last year did include in their report a recommendation that civil service principles should be observed but that the system should be under the control of the library board and not handicapped by any outside body. That statement is a buried thing, in a report that probably many of you have not seen and that fewer outsiders have seen. I think the A. L. A. should go on record in vigorous language on this question of municipal and state civil service. The danger is confronting all of us all the time. Ohio has just been through a siege, as Mr Porter has told you. New Jersey, as I understand, has a civil service law that two years ago was applied to a great many of the public libraries in that state.

If we have two boards in a city, both appointed by the mayor, the library board and the civil service commission, I think you will grant that one is just as likely to have good men on it as the other. Personally, I think that a library board is apt to have men of bigger caliber than the men on the civil service commission in the same town. But we will waive that, and say they are just as good. The library board is held responsible for the library and for the results obtained. Is it not absurd to take the most important part of their task and put it in the hands of another board appointed by the same appointing power, and let that other board, the civil service commission, choose the people who are to do the library work? I think so.

### Reference Function of Small Library\*

Charles E. Rush, St. Joseph, Mo.

Proposition submitted that the small library's surest road to a proper and sufficient financial support lies in a very decided effort of reaching a larger per cent of the business and laboring men in a direct practical way through reference work. Considerable difficulties block the way, most of which are likely due to our own point of view and the limitations which we have set on ourselves and our efforts. Perhaps we need most the application of the principles and efficiency and the adoption of a systematic plan of reference extension work.

Why spend so much time in discussing the theoretical question concerning the proper amount of emphasis to be placed on cultural things and things practical? Why not exert bigger efforts to reach the men of the community whose influence is very practical with the "powers that be" feeling confident of most satisfactory results?

Why is it that librarians seldom view themselves as others see them, or subject themselves to a critical analysis of their routine ways and ideas? A black and white survey of the entire community in relation to the library from an imaginary elevated point will be splendid efficiency test.

Chart the physical characteristics of the community, locating the aids and barriers of easy communication, problems of population, industries, morals, health, etc. Would such an effort be worth the time and cost of making it? Are specific facts, rather than general impressions, of value in a broad, thorough educational program?

On this same chart center our library and its stock of service. Connect the sources of support and demand and note those which have not yet been favored or discovered. Social workers who deal

\*From address at A. L. A. conference before League of library commissions advocating local and state survey of all social conditions affecting library work and efficiency tests applied to libraries and their work.

with only a portion of the phases of life touched by libraries find surveys of immense value.

Perhaps library workers cannot accomplish alone this great task. Cooperation will be necessary and will bring splendid results. Form a volunteer cabinet of advisors, composed of business, professional, educational, laboring men and women. Form deliberate acquaintanceship with leaders of politics, business, society and all sorts of classes and element.

The library cannot fit efficiently and effectively into the needs of a community until it has been brought as close to the lives of the people as are the churches and schools. These needs must be known. Now that we know what systematic aid in reference work is, let us find out how this aid can be efficiently applied.

Surveys and specific facts are needed throughout the state in securing cooperation. We need a considerable amount of the "get-together" movement, intermingling much of the big and little brother spirit. Why should any public library consider itself in any other relation than that of a branch of the state government libraries?

One of our great problems is that of securing greater results at a lower cost. The test of efficiency will soon be forced upon us.

1. Find the best possible way to do a thing.
2. Make that way standard as to both method and time.
3. Teach employees how to reach the standard.
4. Give them the right incentive to do it.

Suppose we submit ourselves to this short survey:

1. What is the small Library undertaking that the community as a whole does not wish to do?
2. What is the small Library failing to undertake which the community wishes it to do?
3. Is the small Library doing well enough what it does?
4. Is it doing inexpensively enough what it does?
5. What parts of its work are not satisfactorily supported?
6. What parts of its work are out of proportion to its program as a whole?

7. Is the community support of the Library proportionate or disproportionate to community support of other public educational activities?

8. Is the Library's business management, in policy, planning, purchasing, supervising, checking and reporting adequate and efficient?

9. Does the Library take sufficient active part in all activities tending to make the community a better place in which to live?

10. What is the Library's relation with, and influence upon the rest of the community's system of public education?

11. Does it see itself as others see it and does it actively appreciate the necessity of knowing the needs of its patrons and the desirability of both pointing out these needs and supporting them?

12. What not-yet-met needs of the community which the Library might meet and what opportunities of increased efficiency should be attempted at once?

### Our Present Problem\*

Mary Ely, Public library, Dayton, Ohio

The children's librarians find themselves today facing a serious situation in the ever-increasing output of worse than worthless children's books, the extent to which these books are advertised and the numbers in which they are sold. The situation not only faces the librarians but presses itself upon them. The time is past when they can feel that they have fulfilled their whole duty, when they have maintained a high standard in the selection of books for the library shelves. It is more and more apparent that the public library is only one, and far from the greatest, of the distributing agencies of children's books today.

To spread the gospel of good books and to create a demand for them, to set in motion forces that shall bring the prices of these books down to a point where they may be available to supply the demand created, is the two-fold task that presents itself as the particular phase of the child welfare problem that it has been given to children's libraries to lead in solving.

Toward the first end librarians have already established Christmas exhibits of best books for children, have pub-

\*Abstract of paper at A. L. A.



lished recommended lists of books and have seized every opportunity to talk to mothers' clubs and teachers' associations. These activities should be continued and broadened in the future. That every children's book department in the land shall be supervised by someone who knows good books and loves them is unquestionably an end to be worked for.

In regard to lowering book prices it does not appear that much has yet been done by the libraries. The Boy Scouts organization is working upon that very problem, and in this as in all their activities should have the hearty coöperation of every children's librarian.

In the race to carry books to the child, commercial interests have seemed, up to this point, to have outdistanced the true lovers of the book and child. It is high time for those who see the danger to be up and doing, swift of foot and sure of purpose. Perhaps it might not be amiss to have a few pure book laws to protect our souls and minds as well as pure foods laws to guard our health!

### "Open Every Day in the Year"

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I think your editorial, "A long delayed duty," in the June issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, endorsing the plea made in an Illinois newspaper for keeping the public library in a town of 15,000 inhabitants open on Sundays and holidays as well as later in the evening, is a timely one and worth the careful attention of every library official and trustee in the country.

This is a subject I happen to have some experience in dealing with as an outsider fighting for larger reading-room privileges, and I never could understand why those who were responsible for the management of our public libraries shouldn't seize every opportunity to increase their usefulness to people who work instead of those who don't.

Such a course would certainly pay big dividends to every one concerned. I have always believed, but have had a

hard time trying to convince library officials, that the best way to secure an increase in the annual appropriation for library purposes was to open wide the doors of the institution on all holidays—including Sundays, of course—and to keep them open long enough every night to satisfy the demands of those who couldn't attend during the day.

A holiday should be a gala day in a library as much as it is now in a church, theater or other place of public entertainment. That is what public libraries and holidays are for—to entertain, instruct and re-create men and women who work on the other days of the week.

"Open every day of the year," the sign that greets you on entering Y. M. C. A. buildings all over this country, I should like to see inscribed over the entrance of every library in the land. And I shall venture the prediction that when the library authorities of this country reach that point in civic development they will be far more generously treated by those who are responsible for the distribution of the contents of the public purse, for the public library will then be rated a much bigger asset to the community.

JAMES C. MOFFET.

Louisville, Ky.

### A Brief for Brevity

A newspaper review of a very interesting report of the Public library of Rochester, N. Y., closes with the following paragraph:

The report has at least one decided merit—brevity. This reminds us of a story in the Book of Books. In Matthew 25:14-30 we are told of three servants who had received talents, five, two and one, respectively. On the Master's return they all rendered account of their stewardship. The first two had doubled their capital. Each of them said so in fourteen words and their work was pronounced "Well done, good and faithful servant." Servant No. 3 had accomplished absolutely nothing, but he made a full report in forty-two words, three times as long as the other reports. He discussed mooted questions and gave reasons for his conduct, including an opinion of the Master. But after all he was a wicked and slothful servant—and hell was his portion.

## Public Libraries

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## Vacation time

The opportunity is here again to wish the readers and friends of PUBLIC LIBRARIES a pleasant vacation in the time that will elapse before it next appears. The courtesy and kindness which has so largely contributed to the pleasure of the relations with subscribers, is greatly appreciated. An earnest effort to retain these friends and to make new ones through whom PUBLIC LIBRARIES may help develop "the best books for the greatest number at the least cost," will be continued.

**Illinois library statistics**—One of the several commendable activities which have been started by the Illinois library extension commission since Miss Anna May Price took charge of it, is the preparation and distribution of blanks with a view to collecting statistics of Illinois libraries.

The form of a monthly report to be made to the Board of directors, covers

the activities of the library. An annual report to be sent to the State library commission, covers the book account, registration and circulation for the library. A register of Illinois librarians prepares for the information of the organizer to be considered as confidential material to be used only in changes of staff, etc. Up to the present time, there has been no way of finding out any of this information except by sending out separate letters to individuals.

Public libraries being tax-supported institutions, it is right and proper that these statistics relating to them and their activities should be collected and filed with the State library authorities, so that information may be easily obtained as occasion demands. It is to be hoped that the librarians of Illinois will cooperate promptly and thoroughly with this and in every movement making for the betterment of library conditions in the state.

**The A. L. A. conference**—We are enjoined by the Scriptures to "Say not the former days were better than these." Following this injunction, one is forced to the conclusion that a disinclination to forego conditions with which one has become familiar must account for the expectant feeling which so large a part of the time continued even to the end of the various meetings. And if there was not what might be called a mass meeting, no one can dispute that there was a mass of meetings! Red room, grill room, ball room, blue room, up stairs, down stairs and out doors, library associations of all kinds and degrees, giving one the impression of the lady referred to by Mr Kent, as struggling to free herself!

Passing from one section or meeting to another, one heard the same topics

discussed by as many different people. Somehow the impression was gained that there exists a necessity for the prevention of overlapping effort, and that concentration of effort and attention, counsel and coöperation, in building programs, might effect a saving of time and strength, leaving a more definite as well as comprehensive notion of what it was all about.

Would it not be a good thing for the A. L. A., if by counsel and consent, the convention were divided into sections, with a clear-cut line of demarcation between the subjects to be discussed in these sections so that if one wished to study any particular subject, he would know where he should hear definitely of it in all its relations and not hear it touched upon in several places, generally in a primary fashion? One meeting doing thoroughly a definite thing instead of several doing bits of it, would be refreshing.

The attendance was the largest in the history of the association. Doubtless the holding of the meeting in the Eastern section of short distances and large libraries accounted for this, though attendance from the other parts of the country was creditable to the various sections. No foreigners were present, for the first time in a number of years. The Canadian delegation was not large but of first-class quality.

It was a pleasure to many members to meet face to face the representatives of Government library effort, and it was doubtless illuminating to many of them to find that their efforts were appreciated and understood by those for whom they prepare much of their work.

The social side of the conference was necessarily limited owing to the demands of time and place.

So much comment was made on the weather that the subject is exhausted.

The decision to hold the next meeting near San Francisco gives another opportunity for an educational and inspirational meeting for 1915, for which it is not too early at this time to prepare.

#### **Katharine L. Sharp, M. A.**

Miss Katharine L. Sharp, the founder, and for 13 years the director of the Illinois library school, died in Saranac Lake hospital, June 1, as the result of an automobile accident which occurred May 28, near Lake Placid Club, New York. The remains were brought to the family burial place at Dundee, Ill., for interment, June 3.

Miss Sharp for eight years had been a member of the family of Dr Melvil Dewey, being second vice-president of the Lake Placid Club Company. A large share of the responsibility for the comfort and pleasure of guests of the Lake Placid Club fell to her lot. She gave up all formal connection with library work in 1906, though her interest in library development, to which she gave a very valuable and substantial contribution, did not cease with her resignation of the directorship of the Illinois library school.

A graduate of the Northwestern university (Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority), she made a brilliant record in the New York state library school. She was placed in charge of the Library department in the Woman's building at the World's Fair, 1893, and at its close, was chosen by President Gunsaulus and Mr P. D. Armour to direct the library school which was opened at Armour institute that year.

In 1897, on invitation of the University of Illinois, Miss Sharp moved the school from Armour institute, Chicago, to the University of Illinois at Champaign, where, until 1906, she gave the best of her intellect and physical power to its upbuilding.

Whatever the future may hold for the training of librarians at the University of Illinois it will always have to be

acknowledged that the foundations of technical training laid by Miss Sharp were firm, solid and true, and whatever building is done, will be upon the foundations which she laid. Exact, indefatigable, unsparing, she gave of herself and her best efforts to the work. This she did at great cost to herself, in that for several years she lingered on the border of invalidism, until restored to health by the freedom from care, the outdoor life and the congenial environment at Lake Placid.

The accident was caused by a rod breaking in the machine as it slowly climbed a steep mountain road, the shifting of the pressure causing the car to swerve from the road over an embankment, where all were thrown out, Miss Sharp and one other being all that were seriously injured. The blow on her left temple, from either striking a tree or a stone, brought on unconsciousness, which remained to the end.

The ride was planned to give pleasure to the house guests who were at Lake Placid Club on account of the marriage of Godfrey Dewey, and the arrangements for the ride had all been made by Miss Sharp.

Mr Dewey, in speaking of it, said:

We are all grateful that there was not a moment's pain. She went as she would choose to go, at a time of supreme radiant happiness because of the success of her arrangements for Godfrey's home-coming. She enjoyed giving happiness to others and she went into the silence at her best.

Our Cedars family of five were all happy in the prospect of our new daughter. Fate has decreed that there is still to be only five, for the hour that brought our beautiful new daughter took from us one who for so many years has been daughter and sister, loved and admired by all of us to a degree that falls to the lot of few women.

Godfrey Dewey accompanied the body to Illinois. At Chicago, a company of friends and former students joined the funeral car, and were present at the interment at Dundee. As the sun was sinking in the west with a flood of golden light, amid a wealth of beautiful flowers from friends, she was laid to rest with a simple service rendered by those who loved her.

The writer was one of those whose stay at Lake Placid Club after the A. L. A. meeting last summer was made most enjoyable in every way by the unceasing care and thoughtfulness of Miss Sharp. Whatever she did was always thoroughly done. A strong character, she had poise and dignity and went through life unafraid and undisturbed by adversity or criticism, when she found the line of direction which seemed to her to point the way. She finished her course and she kept faith to the end.

### Libraries in the South\*

**Katharine H. Wootten, librarian, Carnegie library, Atlanta, Ga.**

In Georgia, in 1907, there were eight public libraries occupying their own buildings. There are now 21, valued at over \$700,000. There is only one endowed library in the state, the first one to be established. Only two large cities, Atlanta and Savannah, have public libraries. There are 26 graduate librarians in the state. There is no state aid for commission work. The only system of traveling libraries is conducted by Mrs E. B. Heard, with the coöperation of the Seaboard Air Line railroad. The larger colleges have good libraries and employ good librarians.

Florida has but two public libraries within its borders, and there are but two trained workers, one at Jacksonville and one at Tallahassee. Recent bequests amounting to \$88,000 to seven Florida cities were received from the Carnegie fund.

Louisiana reported in 1907 three tax supported libraries. There is no later report.

There are now 13 public libraries in Alabama, 16 subscription and endowed libraries. There are 16 Carnegie buildings. Since 1911, the Library extension division of the department of history and archives has operated a system of traveling libraries, including books for the blind. The county library system

\*Abstract from paper before A. L. A. at Washington, D. C.

has been adopted by several counties. The Birmingham public library, with no central building, six branch buildings, and a staff of 12, has an appropriation of \$10,000 none of which may be used for books, which must be secured by gift or public appeal. The future of the Birmingham public library is bright. Within the last year it has been organized on a scientific basis and is doing good work.

Tennessee has 10 municipally supported libraries, seven of which are in Carnegie buildings, 13 subscription libraries, excellent school and college libraries. In 1913, the state board of education was made to supersede the free library commission, assuming all its power and duties with the exception of the system of traveling libraries, which was placed under the direction of the state library. The state library commission still exists in the law, but has no appropriation for active work. The county library idea is spreading.

North Carolina has 75 libraries, 39 of which are public. Of these 12 are in Carnegie buildings. When the commission was created in 1909, there were three trained librarians. There are now 11, not including summer school students. Many state institutions and colleges have adequate libraries. The state university library is under the direction of a corps of trained workers. This library has a summer library school.

South Carolina is still without library association or commission. Since 1907 five public libraries have been opened. Only two libraries are municipally supported.

Virginia has a liberal library law which permits any town or county to tax itself to obtain a library, and the state library of Virginia has been especially active since 1905, still there are but two municipally supported libraries in the state. There are in all eight public libraries, two of which are endowed, others being subscription. The state association has 75 members. In 1913 a legislative reference bureau was created. Book collections in many Virginia col-

leges are valuable. Most of the publications in the state library are along the line of Virginiana. Winchester, with a population of 6,000, has a library bequest of \$250,000, and a building of cut stone which cost \$140,000, and a stack capacity of 75,000 v. The bequests to Virginia libraries amounted to \$308,000, much of which has not been spent.

There is not a free public library municipally supported in the state of West Virginia, and the bill for a free library law presented at a recent legislature failed to pass. There is a good state law for school libraries which have about 225,000 v. throughout the state. The libraries at Huntington, Wheeling, Parkersburg, Fairmount and Charleston are under the control of the Board of education. There is no state association and no commission.

There are 22 public libraries, 16 of which are in Carnegie buildings, in Oklahoma. Thirteen colleges have adequate libraries, as have the state and historical societies. There are three graduate librarians and nine summer school students in the state. All activities are combined for the creation of a commission.

Libraries in Kentucky represent an investment of more than \$1,000,000, for the support of which \$159,000 was given in 1913. There are now 41 public libraries, 13 of which are free and in Carnegie buildings. There are 17 college and special libraries, of which four are in Carnegie buildings. The commission reports that no state institution has an adequate library. A very active commission, for which \$6,000 was appropriated in 1913, maintains excellent traveling libraries, one branch of which is exclusively for the negro population. Berea college and other institutions maintain systems of traveling libraries among the mountain people.

There are 34 libraries in Texas, 20 Carnegie buildings. The total spent for library buildings in the last seven years has been \$488,000, including the new library building of the University of Texas.



Arkansas has two free public libraries, both in Carnegie buildings, representing an expenditure of \$120,000. A state association was organized and an honorary state commission was appointed in 1912. Active work is on to secure an appropriation for the commission.

In Mississippi there is a state association, but no commission. There are nine public libraries, five of which are in Carnegie buildings. The state library renders good service, and many schools and colleges have good libraries. While Mississippi has a population of 1,600,000, there is not a city in the state of 25,000. Only three cities have 20,000 population.

#### **Libraries at the General Federation of Women's Clubs**

The literature and drama section of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in biennial session at Chicago, held a conference Saturday afternoon, June 13th, at the Auditorium. Miss L. E. Stearns, of the Wisconsin Library Commission, presided over the portion of the program devoted to library extension. Miss Stearns briefly called attention to the fact that there were eleven states of the Union which did not have state library commissions and emphasized the opportunity afforded the women's clubs of these various states to assist in procuring commission legislation. She then called upon Mrs E. C. Earl, of the Indiana Public Library Commission, Mr H. E. Legler, Chicago Public Library, Miss May Massee, editor of the *A. L. A. book-list*, and Mr G. B. Utley, secretary of the *A. L. A.*, who made brief helpful remarks on the value of library extension, how to get a library commission, the work of the *A. L. A. Book-list*, the various publications of the *A. L. A.*, and the help the secretary of that association would be glad to render the women's clubs at any time.

The librarians in attendance at the federation meetings were enthusiastic over the help they received from the addresses which they heard on social and civic questions.

#### **A. L. A. Meeting, 1914**

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the *A. L. A.* held at Washington, D. C., May 25-29, had the largest attendance in the history of the association, had the most meetings, had the greatest number of sections, had the greatest number of meetings of these different sections, and probably called forth the greatest diversity of opinion in regard to all of it of any meeting that was ever held.

Headquarters were at the New Willard hotel where the sectional meetings and the meetings of most of the affiliated societies were held. The Continental memorial hall was the scene of the programs of the general sessions.

The first meeting was called to order on Monday evening by President E. H. Anderson, and opened with a greeting from the librarian of Congress, Dr Herbert Putnam. Dr Putnam called attention to the fact that Washington was the national capital, that while the librarians at Washington City would vie with each other in making the stay of the members pleasant, that they had the right to consider themselves as much at home in the capital city of the nation as anybody who held actual residence there. He uttered the wish that the association might form the habit of meeting occasionally in Washington City simply to give an opportunity to foster the home feeling, to know and understand what the government is doing in all lines, but particularly in library lines.

After a brief response to the greeting from Dr Putnam, Mr Anderson presented his address, under the title, "The tax on ideas," (see page 271).

Dr A. E. Bostwick, of St. Louis, as chairman of the committee on library administration, was appointed to read the list and description of the various labor saving devices which were on exhibition in the Washington public library. He presented a clear and appropriate report, given with the dignity and effectiveness with which he always speaks, but many in the audience would have been glad to have heard Dr Bost-

wick on a subject more worthy of his splendid ability.

An interesting number was the stereopticon illustrations of the 37 libraries of the District of Columbia, presented by Mr H. H. B. Meyer, chief of the Division of bibliography of the Library of Congress. Mr Meyer deserved and received the thanks of the audience for the resourceful manner with which he overcame the difficulties of a light insufficient to allow him to present the material as he had prepared it to accompany the pictures.

The meeting on Tuesday evening opened with reports of the committees and officers. Several of these were printed beforehand.

#### **Report of the secretary**

The report opened with an expression of sincere appreciation of the generosity of the Chicago public library in furnishing room, free light, free heat, free janitor service, to the A. L. A. headquarters for the year.

The membership list for the 1914 *Handbook* will be about 2,750.

Special efforts for publicity were made during the year, especially in material sent at various times to a selected list of newspapers and periodicals throughout the United States and Canada. The secretary answered more than a dozen appeals for addresses and conferences in various parts of the country.

The list of deaths during the year included E. W. Blatchford, Chicago; John L. Cadwallader, New York; William George Eakins, Toronto; Frank Avery Hutchins, Wisconsin; William C. Kimball, New Jersey; Josephus Nelson Larned, New York; Richard A. Lavell, Minnesota; Mrs Lyman P. Osborn, Massachusetts; Joseph A. Parrott, Florida; Mary A. Richardson, Connecticut; Reuben Gold Thwaites, Wisconsin; William H. Tillinghast, Massachusetts. The names of eight others, who were formerly members of the association, but were not members at the time of their death were included.

#### **Report of committee on library training**

The report of the committee on library training expressed profound regret at

the termination of the Drexel institute library school and expressed the hope that some other agency in Pennsylvania would take up the work laid down. It also contained the notice of the appointment of Mary E. Robbins for library school examiner, whose work will be to examine schools with a view to considering their preparedness for a place upon a list which shall be deemed standard by the A. L. A. In addition to arranging for the examination of the schools, the committee has begun the study of the whole subject of library training, and for this purpose has addressed questions to the heads of libraries and departments in large libraries, and also to a list of graduates of library schools. Out of a list of replies which they have received to these questions, the committee hopes to obtain suggestions as to the necessity of modifications or enlargement of the school curricula.

Along the line which is claiming the attention of the committee is the question of the apprentice classes in the larger public libraries. Another topic which will be taken up in the near future is the question as to whether the summer schools are living up to the standards laid down by the committee some years ago, and whether the instruction given in these schools is satisfactory.

#### **Binding**

The report of the committee on bookbinding stated that from a total number of 37 samples of bindery, there is conclusive proof that a large number of libraries are getting inferior binding. A number of recommendations with regard to sewing and binding were made by the committee.

The report of the committee on library administration was read by Dr Bostwick the first evening.

The committee on work with the blind referred to the great extension of their work made possible by the parcel post service. The report on the work for the blind in the various states and the Library of Congress, as well as in other directions, was included in the report.

Dr Hill submitted the report of the A. L. A. committee on the Leipzig exposition. From 131 organizations and individuals, \$4,271 was collected. An interesting report of the installation of the exhibit in Leipzig was also presented. See page 310.

Mr Legler presented the memorial on Dr Reuben Gold Thwaites.

#### A. L. A. Publishing Board

The annual receipts in the business conducted by the A. L. A. Publishing Board have more than trebled in the past 10 years. With a capital of but \$4,000 annually, the business now amounts to from \$12,000 to \$16,000 annually. The total sales of the Publishing Board last year amounted to \$11,560.79. Total receipts were \$15,444.

The first year of the *A. L. A. Booklist* in Chicago has been successful. The editor reports that there has been prompt response to any requests for help from the various schools and other organizations in Chicago. The American medical association, the Chicago school of civics and philanthropy, Chicago school of domestic science, University of Chicago, Chicago woman's club, Garrett biblical institute, Northwestern university, and the various Chicago libraries, all gave freely of time and knowledge.

Following the request of the Executive Board that the Publishing Board invite suggestions through the library press for desirable changes in name, size, etc., this was done. The responses were neither numerous nor encouraging. Protests against the changes were also received.

The number of periodical cards printed since the last report was 256,850. The New York public library signified its desire to withdraw as one of the five coöperating libraries in the preparation of copy for these cards and the library of the University of Illinois has taken its place.

Nineteen chapters of the A. L. A. manual of library economy have been prepared, each as a separate pamphlet. These publications comprise: "Thousand books for the hospital library,"

"How to start a library," "Material on geography which may be obtained free," "List of books for high schools," "Vocational guidance through the library."

Particular effort has been made during the year to advertise the *A. L. A. Booklist*. The total subscriptions to the *Booklist* now are as follows: bulk subscriptions to libraries, 2,207; single subscriptions, 1,712; sent to library members as part of their membership perquisites, 413; free list, 37. Total, 4,369.

The need of a national archive building was strongly presented by Dr J. Franklin Jamison, director of the Department of historical research of the Carnegie institute of Washington. The discussion was taken up by Dr Gaillard Hunt, chief of the Division of manuscripts, Library of Congress, and Victor H. Paltsits, chairman of the Public archives commission of the American historical society. Reference was made to the scattered location of valuable archives relating to the history and development of the Western hemisphere, which are scattered in non-fireproof buildings and out of the way places throughout the District of Columbia.

In Washington City, over \$50,000 is spent each year for store-room rent. A resolution was passed calling attention to the fact that the daily papers contain material of untold value in the history and development of the country. It was voted that the A. L. A. approve efforts of the present time to secure a public archive building and that the association urge Congress to make adequate appropriation for the same.

"The library and the immigrant," was presented by Mr John Foster Carr, director of the Immigrant education society, New York, (See page 276).

"The library and rural communities," presented by United States commissioner P. P. Claxton, was a plea for the extension of county library organization in those communities.

#### Third session

The third session on Wednesday evening was opened by the announcement from President Anderson that an oppor-

tunity for any member to present a matter of business was available. Miss M. E. Ahern offered the following:

There has been much discussion concerning some of the provisions of the present constitution, which do not meet the approval of many members of the association. Believing that a full and free discussion of those things by those with power to act is better than side discussions on the part of those unwilling to take parliamentary action, I wish to record my desire to make certain changes in Section 14 of the constitution for the following reasons:

The Council as at present constituted, is not a deliberative body, though it is intended to be such, for the reason that the membership is too large. The Council as a deliberative body ought to have some permanency of membership and at the same time, be small enough to concentrate on the work in hand so that it may represent the consensus of opinion of the entire Council instead of a committee of that body. The ex-presidents would render a sufficiently large number of permanent members. These, with the Executive Board and the representatives of the affiliated associations, would seem to be a better number than the present.

Referring to Section 22: We hear on all sides that there are too many meetings and in too many libraries the same people represent the libraries at every meeting, both large and small. A remedy that would be somewhat helpful would be to change Section 22, which provides for an annual meeting of the A. L. A., to a provision for a biennial meeting of the association.

The question of membership privileges and advantages is obscured by the present wording of Section 3A of the by-laws, which says,

"The privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences shall be available to those holding personal membership or to members of other affiliated societies."

Does membership in an affiliated society, paying perhaps 10 cents a member,

cover membership in the A. L. A. for such members of the affiliated society, or is it necessary also to pay annual dues in addition to the dues for affiliation? In other words, what constitutes privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences? The answer is not plain as the by-law now reads.

The association ought not be prevented either by precedent or personal feeling from securing officers for the association whose service at the time would be to the advantage of the association and the advancement of the library cause. The constitution provides that vacancies in the Executive Board shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Board. It is possible, if it has not actually happened, that the majority of the membership of the Executive Board might be appointed by itself.

For these two primary reasons and for others which might be mentioned, I would suggest that a by-law be passed, providing that no one already a member of the Executive Board either by election or by appointment shall be eligible to fill another position by appointment or election in the Executive Board. In other words, that at least a year shall intervene between times of holding office of *all* elected officers, as is the case now with members of the Council.

Therefore, Mr President, I move that a committee of five be appointed by the Executive Board to consider the advisability of making such changes as may seem advisable and to report these changes at the first meeting of the Council in the coming year.

The first address of the evening was presented by C. K. Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, on "The present trend." See page 272.

"Library development in the South since 1907," was assigned Katharine Wooten, to bring up to date the former report on this subject made at the Asheville meeting by Miss Anne Wallace.

Miss Wooten referred to the difficulty she had in extracting information for

her paper and laid the blame for its deficiencies on the failure of those in authority to answer questions.

Great disappointment was felt in the absence of Mr DeForrest, president of the American federation of arts, who was expected to present the educational work of that institution, but was prevented from coming. Mr Henry W. Kent, of the Metropolitan museum of fine arts, New York, was invited by Mr DeForrest to take his place on the program. Owing to the lateness of the hour when called on to speak, (10:15 p. m.), Mr Kent, with only a few strong sentences, in behalf of the cultural side of library work, a plea for a closer relation by the actual reader as an exponent of human life in all its phases, made way for Miss Leila Mechlin, secretary of the American federation of art, who gave a most interesting account of the work the Federation has been doing within the past year in conjunction with libraries all over the country in holding art exhibits. In stereopticon views, Miss Mechlin showed the class of pictures which the Federation lends, illustrating library art rooms in which such exhibits were held.

#### Fourth session

The fourth session was held on Friday afternoon, at 2:30. It was hoped that Postmaster-general Burleson would be present to address the association, but official duties made it impossible.

The first address was by W. N. C. Carlton, librarian of the Newberry library, Chicago. Mr Carlton chose for his topic, "Prestige," offering the thesis that scholarship was the keystone of librarianship, quoting liberally from the master minds of literature to support his point. He gave a lengthy address, in which he held that the popular side of librarianship was over-emphasized to the detriment of the scholarly side, and in doing so, he said that he felt that he was perhaps running counter to the opinion of the majority, but wished to state frankly that he was not a loyal subject of King Demos, and was in revolt against the authority of the man in

the street. He thought librarians were not sufficiently concerned as to the dignity and power of their profession and called attention to the fact that despite the long list of celebrated librarians which the world had produced, comparable in many instances with sages, seers, artists, statesmen, rulers, not a single statue had ever been erected to them either by librarians or the admiring public whom they had served.

Mr Carlton was followed by Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh, who read in her inimitable way from three foolish books which had occupied prominent places continuously for long periods among the best sellers. The temperature of the room was far past a comfortable point, yet the audience of several hundred waited as patiently as possible for the treat that they felt was in store for them. They were not disappointed.

The report of the resolutions committee expressed the appreciation of the association of the courtesy and great kindness shown by the committees of the District of Columbia in the provisions made for the meeting of the A. L. A. and affiliated societies.

The nominating committee, consisting of Dr A. E. Bostwick, A. L. Bailey, H. L. Leupp, Agnes Van Valkenburgh and Margaret Mann, presented their nominations, which were approved by the Executive Board, and at the close of the polls declared elected by the tellers. The officers with vote received are as follows:

President: Hiller C. Wellman, Springfield, Mass., 183.

First vice-president: W. N. C. Carlton, Chicago, 171.

Second vice-president: Mary L. Titcomb, Hagerstown, Md., 180.

Members of the Executive Board: Mary W. Plummer, New York City, 176; J. T. Jennings, Seattle, 182.

Members of the Council: Adam Strohm, 172; W. R. Watson, 179; Corinne Bacon, 177; Andrew Keogh, 182; Effie L. Power, 171.

Trustees of Endowment fund, 180; M. T. Pyne, 178.



**Trustees' section**

The Trustees' section was presided over by W. T. Porter, trustee of the Cincinnati public library.

The discussion was opened by T. L. Montgomery, trustee of the Wagner institute, Philadelphia, who pointed out a number of instances where unwise legislation had been prevented by attention of trustees, and also, where almost unbearable conditions prevailed because of the inattention of the trustees to legislative matters which they could easily have adjusted, the wrong legislation being enacted because of the lack of knowledge on the part of the legislators, and lack of interest on the part of the trustees.

In describing the pension plan for employees which obtains in the Chicago public library, Mr Legler justified the system, not as a matter of charity, but what he termed a matter of "deferred compensation." He held that the city and state should be the model employer as to conditions of work, and that on the other hand, the public official should be the model employee. That growing out of this combination the pension system, partly contributed to by the employees, and partly maintained through the funds of the institution, was a logical development of relationship between employer and employee, incumbent upon the former and entitled to by the latter. Mr Legler added that there is in the Chicago pension fund at the present time nearly \$100,000, and that all fines, amounting to about \$16,000 annually, are added to this fund by vote of the Library board. The employees contribute one per cent of their salaries, amounting to about \$3,000 annually, and there is also added to the principal fund the revenues received from investment of the funds. The maximum pension at present is \$50 and the minimum \$27.50 a month.

R. R. Bowker, trustee of the Brooklyn public library, talked on the question, "Should libraries be under municipal and state civil service?" Mr Bowker referred to internal civil service as a means of protection for the library interests and said that in his investigations he had

not been able to find any instance where this was not preferred to either municipal or state civil service.

The discussion was continued further by J. T. Jennings, (See page 280).

Dr Frank P. Hill discussed the question of classifying libraries for the purpose of fixing a standard for salaries and vacations. Diversity of administration was a hindrance to the idea of logical classification. He thought that the initial salary in the majority of cases was too small, considering the requirements needed for high class work. He thought it might be possible to make two classes of workers in the library, which should equalize salaries for different kinds of work; responsibility, technical knowledge and education on the one hand, and clerical service on the other.

Dr Bostwick, of the St. Louis public library, spoke of the attempt in the beginning to have municipal reference service separate from the St. Louis public library, the comparative insignificance of its results when compared with what the public library was able to do in conjunction with its other work for municipal reference.

Mr Hodges, of the Cincinnati public library, told of the extension of the privileges of that library to Hamilton County. It was found to be economical both in cost, labor and material, and the grade of service was of a higher order than could be furnished by the small villages separately.

"Some trustees—there are others," as presented by Miss M. E. Ahern, recounted observations and experiences with trustees in various parts of the country who exploited the library for their own benefit and that of their friends, who, through indifference, want of knowledge, interest and education, crippled the library service. As a contra picture to this, the interest, sacrifice, devotion, effective service, personal influence of still others, were cited.

**Professional training**

The professional training section was called to order Tuesday afternoon, May 26, by the chairman, Miss Bacon.

A symposium on "The fate averted

from libraries by library school entrance examinations" was presented by Miss Donnelly, Miss Rathbone and Miss Plummer.

Miss Donnelly said that the examination was but *one* means of testing but *one* qualification of a candidate, the educational and cultural background, but that it was a convenient help to the great problem of fitting the vocation and the worker. That, in doing this, there were three elements involved:

1. The importance of safeguarding the libraries in every way from getting assistants who were incompetent.

2. The desirability, for the reputation and efficiency of the schools, of not admitting material which would be a clog.

3. The even greater fundamental importance of testing the candidates as fairly and fully as possible, for their own sakes, that those unsuited to the work might be turned away before they had wasted time and money, and had lost other opportunities which might have led to success, and that those who were well adapted to the work might be recognized, even when their formal academic credits might not seem, until so tested, to render them as eligible as others.

Miss Donnelly said, further, that the entrance examination might not be sufficient in itself, but that it did cut out automatically those hopelessly below par; and that, in addition, it tested the value of certificates given by educational institutions, and permitted the school to supplement its knowledge of the ability of the applicants in subjects which even college work might not have tested.

That, for instance, a good examination should do more than test the memory of facts crammed for an occasion. It should test spelling and English, the ability to read and copy accurately from the printed page. It should show what fund of "things commonly known" the candidate owned; and should include questions planned to give the candidates an opportunity to show a grasp of the

subject, to marshal their knowledge into a logical order, and to show what critical judgment they have.

Miss Donnelly said she had wondered considerably in recent years whether history, literature and languages were sufficient for examination, and whether familiarity with the natural sciences and sociological subjects was not as necessary for a library worker as the traditional subjects.

Finally, the examination should be used as a useful auxiliary to a preliminary broad education.

Following Miss Donnelly, Miss Rathbone said that the profession at large was responsible for the attraction to library work of the most fit among the oncoming generation. That among those thus attracted, it was the function of the library schools to select. Selection implied rejection, the aspect implied by the title of the symposium.

The title suggested two questions:

1. *What* was the fate to be averted?
2. *Was* it averted by the library schools?

In answer to these questions, Miss Rathbone said that the fate was, presumably, the invasion of the profession by the ignorant, the inefficient, the lazy, and all the other well-known varieties of the unfit.

As to whether the fate was actually averted, she stated that to do so would mean to guard all gateways into the profession, which it was evident the schools could not do.

That, even for the schools themselves, this fate was not averted by the entrance examinations. That every school graduated students of whose fitness there was some doubt; and that, on the other hand, desirable material was sometimes shut out. But that, on the whole, the examiner could tell at least as much about an unseen candidate as the result of a skilfully planned examination as by any other means; less from the amount of definite information given than by the presentation of subjects. Judgment, power of discrim-

ination, systematic and orderly habits of mind, originality, resourcefulness, mental alertness, could all be tested; and such an examination constituted at least as fair a test of such qualities as did the possession of an A. B. or a Ph. B.

Miss Rathbone felt that the Pratt Institute entrance examinations had done as much to guard that school, if not the profession at large, from the invasion of the unfit as any other form of entrance requirement could do.

Miss Plummer opened her part of the discussion by showing in what three ways library school entrance examinations differed, or should differ, from the final examinations given in high schools and colleges.

1. The school or college knows its student—the library school, as a rule, examines a stranger.

2. The school or college examines on a definite course of instruction to see if the student retains correct impressions. The library school has to discover a test of the contents of a student's mind in certain large fields of knowledge related to library work.

3. The school or college is preparing for no definite or limited purpose, and will have no opportunity of testing its product in actual work. The library school must test its students' educational equipment for a definite work, since its product will be put to work immediately upon graduation; and its failure in respect to education will probably reflect upon the library school as being unable to give a real test.

Miss Plummer said that, for these reasons, it was not safe to accept without question the diploma of high school or college. She emphasized the point that correct answers to questions were not all that should be considered significant in an examination. Honesty, frankness, depth of information, versatility, social and educational background, maturity, sense of proportion and values, and many other qualities, as well as their opposites or negations, might be read between the lines of an examination paper.

This point was illustrated by a number of curious answers to examination questions, which were illuminating and suggestive; and which, as Miss Plummer pointed out, showed one reason why librarians have such hard work to get themselves recognized as a profession.

A protest was registered against the admission, by libraries, to an educational work, of young people who have nothing in their heads as a result of their education.

The final point was a query as to whether it would not be possible to have grades of clerical work in libraries for those young people whose lack of education, of inherited cultivation, taste, and refinement, unfit them for work with books and the public, keeping the cultural, representative side of the work for those who have the educational and cultural equipment.

The next subject on the program was "The selective function of library schools," presented by Mr F. K. Walter.

Mr Walter emphasized one of the points made by Miss Rathbone, that the prestige of the profession depended primarily on the average ability of its members, and that it was essential to fix some standard of qualification necessary for those in its ranks.

He said that one excellent professional code had been formulated, but, so far, it had been quite inoperative. The points of view of library trustees were many and diversified, and their power of establishing their own local standards was practically unlimited. The selective principle, therefore, was perhaps applied nowhere else at present so thoroughly or consistently or on so large a scale as in the library schools.

They had, through their requirements for entrance and graduation, maintained fairly approximate standards; their course of study had been definite in subjects, methods and aim. The policy had been to keep out, from the start, the doubtful and the obviously unfit. The service rendered to the profession by this restrictive policy had been pretty generally recognized by librarians and

trustees. Dr Bostwick, at the Ottawa conference in 1912, said, "I want to emphasize the value of library schools as selectors, which it seems to me is very great, transcending even, perhaps, their great value as trainers."

The confidence which libraries generally showed toward library school graduates and the low percentage of failures among the students amply justified the selective policy.

Furthermore, the library schools deserved the *active* support of the profession in their attempt to select.

A few suggested methods of support were: To encourage good students to attend and to discourage others; to report points in which students had been successful as well as those in which they had failed; to actively resist the attempts of institutional heads to place the schools on a quantitative rather than a qualitative basis in the matter of admission; to point out to boards of trustees and legislative bodies definite cases in which the careful work of the schools had been of service to the community or the state.

The principle of selection needed to be impressed more insistently on conductors of training classes, summer schools and all other agencies which professedly train, or which properly can train, only for minor positions. The assistant, no less than the department head, should be carefully selected and carefully trained.

The A. L. A. could very perceptibly raise the standard of the whole profession by encouraging the establishment of well-planned courses of training to replace the hit or miss methods which are so often all the minor assistants get, and by using its influence to have admission to any grade of library service limited to the very best persons possible under local financial limitations.

Dr Azariah S. Root was called on to discuss the topic. He said that he was glad to have such emphasis placed on the selective function of the schools, and that he wondered if the selective function had gone far enough, or whether

there should not be a raising of the educational standard. This, however, would be dependent largely upon whether the libraries were ready to pay for the advance in standard.

Dr Root approved heartily of Miss Plummer's suggestion that there should be a distinction between the clerical worker in a library and the more highly educated and trained worker. With this distinction, libraries could take a general standard of higher wage to maintain their highly trained assistants.

The next paper on the program was by Miss Annie Carroll Moore, on "Training for the work of the children's librarian."

Miss Moore spoke of the necessity for special training for this work, and gave the outline for assistants qualifying for the Children's librarian's grade in the New York public library, to be used as a basis for preparing a thesis on the work of a children's room.

In preparing her own paper, Miss Moore has sent out a questionnaire to her associates in work, asking what library work for children really was, what subjects should be included in a one year course of special training for a children's librarian, and what subjects should be emphasized as best adapted to meet the needs in the work. From the forty-five answers received, and a survey of existing needs in the field of work with children throughout the country, Miss Moore made the following recommendation for a one year course:

1. Weekly lectures and discussions on literature for children.
2. Weekly lectures and discussions relating to the children's room itself.
3. Supervised practice of a progressive character including, if possible, two months of actual administration of a children's room.
4. Lectures on children's rooms and their problems in large and small libraries, taking up history of library work with children, relation of children's library to child welfare movement, etc.
5. Field work; visits to museums, art galleries, schools, book shops, institu-

tions connected with the welfare of children, etc.

6. Special courses to be made elective, outside the library at a university or special school where the library student would have the liberalizing influence of contact with other students.

Miss Moore said that the need for strong workers was so urgent that she was moved to ask that practice work in large libraries be given its full measure of value by library schools, and by the libraries themselves, and that students specializing in work with children be taught to conceive of it in terms of more responsible accomplishment during their student experience.

Following Miss Moore, the chairman called for reports on any new courses in library training.

Dr Frank P. Hill told of the course to be offered this coming year, by the Brooklyn public library, for training children's librarians.

Miss Alice S. Tyler reported on the course given by the Western Reserve university library school this last year on "The public library and community welfare." She said that it had so far proved its value that it would be given again next year; and that, in order to make room for it, the cataloging course had been reduced by 10 lectures, with no harmful results.

Miss Plummer reported a new Municipal reference course to be given this next year by the Library school of the New York public library. This course was made possible by the fact that the New York municipal reference library had recently become a branch of the Public library.

Mr M. S. Dudgeon spoke of the Administration course given last year by the library school of the University of Wisconsin. He said that this first year the legislative reference work had been emphasized, and that practical work had been done mostly with the State departments.

This closed the program, and, immediately following, the business meeting was called to order.

Miss Tyler, chairman of the committee on the revision of the by-laws, presented the committee's report, which was voted on, section by section, and adopted with very few alterations.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairman: Frances Simpson, assistant director, University of Illinois library school, Urbana, Ill.

Vice-Chairman: Agnes Van Valkenburgh, director, Library school, New York public library.

Secretary: Julia A. Hopkins, principal, Brooklyn Public Library training classes.

JULIA A. HOPKINS,  
Secretary.

#### Children's section

As the conference was meeting where one of the most important institutions dealing with the welfare of children has its seat, it seemed the opportunity of the Children's section to hear about the work of the Children's bureau. Miss Laura A. Thompson, librarian of the Bureau read a paper describing its foundation, scope and hopes. The Bureau was established April 9, 1912 and began work August 23, 1912, as a part of the Department of Labor. Its duties were thus defined by law:

The said bureau shall investigate and report . . . on all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life among all classes of our people, and shall especially investigate the questions of infant mortality, the birth-rate, orphanage, juvenile courts, desertion, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children, employment, legislation affecting children in the several states and territories. . . .

Thus though not having legislative and administrative powers it aids legislation by furnishing authentic knowledge of causes and conditions aimed at by laws.

The first subject taken up, since a staff of 15 and an annual appropriation of \$30,000 could not cover at once the field assigned to it, was that of infant mortality. Being met with gaps in the social statistics, the Bureau made a vigorous campaign for birth registration by pamphlets and by a test of the figures



available, made by the coöperation of federations of women's clubs.

In order to ascertain the social factors which make for the high infant mortality in the United States, the Bureau began its first field investigation, taking for the first place of study, Johnstown, Pa. The cordial coöperation of the mothers in the inquiry is shown by the fact that out of 1,553 schedules, information was refused only in two cases: The results of this investigation are now almost ready for the press. It is to be followed by a number of other investigations in both urban and rural communities, exhibiting varying social and economic characteristics. It is interesting to note that the general interest awakened in health matters in Johnstown by the infant mortality investigation resulted in stirring the community authorities to take action to secure better sanitary conditions and an improvement of the milk supply.

Among the pamphlets published by the Bureau is a popular series on the home care of children.

As one of the influential factors of the agitation preceding the foundation of the Bureau was the question of child labor, the Bureau is preparing a review of the laws affecting children in industry. In coöperation with the Industrial relations commission, the Bureau has been conducting an investigation into the records of children at work, and methods of issuing employment certificates. It has also published a "Handbook of Federal statistics of children," dealing with the number of children in the country, birth rate, illiteracy, child labor and defective, dependent and delinquent children.

The Bureau keeps in touch with legislation affecting children in the various states and is constantly appealed to for information concerning the welfare of children.

Miss Thompson was followed by Miss Annie Carroll Moore who said that in this age of superficial creation in children's books, a bureau searching for underlying facts concerning child welfare would be a bulwark of strength to other workers with children and would help to lay a foundation for a more serene and happy childhood.

Miss Julia Lathrop, the head of the

Bureau spoke of the excellent work her staff has done, in making their appropriation go as far as possible. Their library has been built up to aid them in the investigations already entered into, and besides containing books on child welfare has reports and laws from many other countries and in many languages. She asked the help of children's librarians in giving publicity to the Bureau's publications and in possibly planning for the future, exhibits that will show the steady spread and use of children's literature.

Miss Hewins, in response to a question from Miss Lathrop spoke of the use the Bureau might be to children's librarians not in having a collection of children's books, but by being a clearing house of lists of books published by libraries, and of books about children for the use of older people working with children.

Miss Hewins suggested the use of the home libraries to teach the care, the use and real appreciation of books in a non-bookish community, particularly for children before they are admitted to large libraries. This idea is practical in crowded districts and has been carried out successfully in Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh and other cities.

The children's librarian in the Osterhout free library, Wilkes Barre, Pa., has offered prizes to a boy and girl under 10 years of age, also to a boy and girl over 10 years of age, using the children's room for the best essay of at least 500 words upon not less than six books selected from the book-mark of "Fifty books every child should know," which was compiled at the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Library. The result is not yet known, although the children have manifested much interest in the scheme and are very busy reading the books. The prizes will consist of a beautifully illustrated book for each successful candidate.

Miss Mary Ely, head of the children's work in Dayton, Ohio, described

the problem facing every children's librarian in the bookstores crowded with books selling from 19 to 35 cents. That this is our problem is shown in the fact that not only children the library can not reach own books we disclaim, but library borrowers come back from their Christmas vacations clamoring for those same books. Miss Ely in her investigations visited bookstores and examined the stock, finding that no matter how good his intentions, the bookseller regards book from their commercial aspect, and will handle only those which sell with the most profit. This means cheaply told classics and sensational series. Assistance from parents and teachers comes slowly because of obliviousness and lack of time. So it is for the children's librarians to spread the gospel of good books, creating a demand for better books, and to do what we can to bring price of good books down to satisfy it.

F. K. Mathiews, Chief Scout librarian of the Boy Scouts of America read a paper on "The influence of the Boy Scout movement in directing the reading of boys." He said that the organization has recognized and built upon with success the "gang spirit" already discovered by writers of inferior stories. They first purchased "*Boys' Life*" magazine, which now presents enough fiction to allure the boy and also contains stimulating and encouraging messages to boys from living great men who are all of them boys' heroes.

The next step in the influencing of the boys' reading was the announcement to parents through women's magazines, that in response to a description of their boys, age, interests, temperament, attainments, faults, hobbies, courses of reading for each boy would be prescribed. Responses came from nearly every state in the country and every country in the world.

To combat the cheap and vicious stories bearing the name of Boy Scout but entirely misrepresenting the movement, a library committee was organized consisting of George F. Bower-

man, Harrison W. Craver, Claude G. Leland, Edward F. Stevens, and the Editorial Board of the Movement, William D. Murray, George D. Pratt, Frank Presbrey and Mr Mathiews. Under their direction a series of books known as Every boy's library—Boy Scout ed. was chosen, containing only such books as would interest boys. The first 25 are works of fiction or stirring stories of adventurous experiences. It is hoped that the same number may be added each year, and that books of a more serious nature will be added later. The merchandising of the series is in the hands of Grosset and Dunlap and more than 71,000 copies were sold in the last six weeks of last year. The movement has met with the heartiest coöperation from authors, publishers and book sellers.

These last, through a seven weeks' trip through the South, Mr Mathiews found ready to coöperate in any program for better reading which will afford them a reasonable profit. But there is at present such an insatiable desire and demand for cheap books that the bookseller in order to hold his business must carry them. So that the needful thing is that parents should be aroused to see the harm they are doing in buying cheap and vicious books.

At the business meeting, the report of Miss Whitcomb, chairman of the Committee on subject headings for a children's catalog was read, in which the suggestion was made that the Section recommend to the Publishing Board of the A. L. A. the printing of Miss Mann's list, "Guide to the selection of subjects in making a catalog of juvenile books." This was moved by Miss Moore and carried. Miss Isom of Portland was appointed to the advisory board for three years.

The following officers were elected: Jessie M. Carson, Tacoma, chairman; Jasmine Britton, Spokane, vice-chairman, and Janet Jerome, Denver, secretary.

ETHEL P. UNDERHILL, Secretary.

### A. L. A. Notes

It was several times suggested during the convention that a by-law which would give historians, reminiscencers and statisticians leave to print would find almost universal favor.

The Weather Bureau, learning that Secretary Utley wished to make this a record-breaking meeting as to numbers, used all the numbers at its disposal and kept the mercury as near 100 as it possibly could during the week.

With the mercury in the thermometer trying to get out at the top of the tube, with the audience consequently reduced to an imaginable state, it is hard to keep interest at a high point when speakers are threshing over old straw.

No comment on the meeting could omit some expression of appreciation of the delightful hospitality with which we were met at every turn. The libraries of the District were thrown open to us and the staff at the Library of Congress particularly seemed to have no duties other than that of answering our questions.

Mr Dudgeon with a pair of crutches was a sight that created wonder, sympathy and admiration throughout the week.

One of the new people at the library conference this year was Professor S. F. Emerson, chairman of the Public library commission of Vermont. Mr Emerson is the scholarly type of a gentleman, with a sympathetic, genial personality which ought to go far towards securing the interest of the people of Vermont for the work of its most excellent commission. Miss Fanny Fletcher who refused re-appointment on the Board of commissioners at the hands of her father, Governor Fletcher of Vermont, is still interested in the work of the commission, and was one of the faithful attendants at the various meetings.

Any comment on the section meetings must begin with the old familiar plea,

"Louder, please." Sometimes the quarters provided for the meeting were responsible, but quite as often the voice of the speaker was at fault. After trying in vain to hear one wondered if it were not almost time that provision was made whereby those unable to make themselves heard might not have their papers read for them. Nothing, certainly, is much more irritating than to sit on a hot day straining every nerve to hear what is being said, then letting some burning question go unasked because the questioner is not at all sure it has not already been answered.

The local committee provided adequate printed material for those in attendance at the A. L. A. conference, showing places of interest in and around Washington. A very interesting and valuable item was the "Handbook of the libraries in the District of Columbia," compiled by Mr H. H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer of the Library of Congress. A leaflet showing little journeys around Washington, giving distances, objects of interest, cost and directions for reaching them, was also much appreciated. "Works of art in Washington" by Leila Mechlin was a real time-saver in sightseeing.

On Thursday evening the librarians of the District of Columbia entertained the American Library Association with an informal reception and dance in the large ball room of the New Willard. To say that it was a *warm* reception but carries out the impression of Washington and Washingtonians given the members during the whole conference—so warm was it, in fact, that many co-workers—old and young alike—were seen to "hesitate" when it came to the new dances—a thing never before heard of upon a like occasion in the annals of the association.

It is undoubtedly the wish of the Association to "get the Washington habit," and that means to hold the meetings in that city once in every few years. Twenty-two years have elapsed since

the last meeting held there, at the end of the conference of 1892. There were 260 members reported as attending that year, this year nearly 1300. Furthermore almost every one of these 1300 members attended at least one meeting in the course of the week, especially those who were descended from ancestors having New England consciences and had had their time given them by board of trustees.

The iconoclastic trend of the papers in the Special Libraries meetings makes one think those people will never have done making brilliant discoveries—some of which the orthodox librarians have been applying in their work for a long time. One might suggest as a special field of research for them the possible application or adaptation of regular library methods to special library work. If they would make their criticism constructive rather than destructive it might benefit both sides.

The quality of the weather during A. L. A. week would not have been acceptable anywhere, but in a city of asphalt pavements and high buildings it seemed even more unendurable. There seemed to be a general consensus of opinion that a city meeting was not so conducive to general elevation of professional spirit, even tho there was sight-seeing of unusual interest and food and shelter of a high character and price.

The A. L. A. has once more met in a city with all the disadvantages of scattered hotel accommodations and outside attractions, and the meeting cannot, in spite of the heat, be called a failure. True, we did miss the intimacy that we cannot afford to spare from many of the conferences; more than once members were heard sighing even for Kaaterskill where other members could not so easily elude them.

The combination of very long programs and hot nights tended to make the general sessions drag and set one to wondering if we might not, some time, try the experiment of one hour or even

an hour and a half for papers, followed by an informal reception. Such, indeed, seems to have been the intention of Monday night's session, but the length of the program left no time for the social side.

The efficiency question bobbed up in the Catalog section again. Are the catalogers the only inefficient people on the staff, or is it because they are the only ones capable of being made efficient, we wonder? At any rate it is interesting even though we are not entirely convinced of its necessity.

Each of the four days of the conference held only 24 hours. Of course on such an occasion all could dispense with sleep, and owing to the thoughtfulness of the Weather Bureau food could be dispensed with almost entirely. But even then it was a problem for each member to manage all the meetings. For, of course, no self-respecting librarian would go to Washington and return to his library without visiting the Congressional library, the Capitol, the Smithsonian Institution, the New National museum, the Old National museum, the Treasury, the Pension building, the Patent office, the Bureau of printing and engraving, the Pan-American building, the Monument, the Corcoran art gallery, the White House with its red velvet, blue, and green rooms, etc., the Post office, the Soldiers' home, the Rock Creek cemetery with its wonderful treasure, Mt. Vernon, Alexandria, Arlington, the Bridge of the Lions, the Falls of the Potomac, Georgetown, the Senate, the House of Representatives, Office buildings of Senate and House, the State, War and Navy building, the Zoological park, the Botanical garden, Ford's theatre, the Carnegie public library, the Dead letter museum, the Government printing office, the Agricultural department, Theodore Roosevelt, Secretary Bryan, and the President, and to compass this, including all the meetings, in four times 24 hours required a mathematical calculation beyond the powers of most of the librarians.

T.

**School Librarians at A. L. A.****Joint meeting of Normal and High school librarians**

The second annual meeting was called to order by Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Girls' high school, Brooklyn. The opening address on "College and normal school courses in the use of the library and in children's literature" assigned to Dr P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of education, was delivered in his absence by Dr Samuel P. Capen, Specialist in higher education in the Bureau of education. He said:

The library is a laboratory, the only one everyone has to keep on using after school is ended. It is absurd to expect a student to use a laboratory without instruction. That teachers have not told students how to unlock the library is extraordinary. Statistics, analyzed by Dr Wolcott in the report of the Commissioner of education for 1912, on the "spread of courses in the use of the library" were given. Figures for 1913, from manuscript in the Bureau of education show an increase of institutions offering such courses. These courses are of two kinds. 1. Those offering instruction in the technical part of library work. 2. Those giving instruction in the use of books and in children's literature. The second is the more useful. Three publications mark the advance of library courses in schools. The report to the National education association in 1905 of the committee on instruction in library administration in normal schools, the report of James V. Sturgis, principal of the Geneseo state normal school on the training of teachers in the use of books, in the National education association Proceedings for 1910 and the report of the committee on normal school libraries in the proceedings of the same society for 1913. These reports show that the movement is growing rapidly. Results when commented on have a favorable verdict for pupils are able to do their school work faster. Library lessons should be given in High school in order that Normal schools may specialize on courses for teachers.

Dr J. D. Wolcott, librarian of the

Bureau of education, told how the library of the Bureau of education may serve the schools. He said he wished to extend the service of the library and welcomed suggestions for its wider use. The library has a large collection of pedagogical material, both old and new, and an attempt is made to have it as complete as possible. While it is primarily for the use of the specialists of the bureau and for the staff, the aim is to make it a circulating and reference library for the whole United States as well as a clearing house for statistics and information. Books are loaned freely to public, university and normal school libraries and to responsible individuals. Since last fall package libraries have been sent to school superintendents of towns, cities and counties. These libraries contain from 25 to 50 books, selected either by the superintendent or by one of the staff of the bureau, bearing on the topics to be discussed in teachers' meetings. The bibliographic service furnishes free information to everyone on educational topics, library work with children, and lists of books for school libraries. Reference lists on nearly 1,000 educational topics are on file and new lists are often compiled on request. The monthly record of current publications is sent free to anyone who wishes it. Other services are, indicating government publications that can be used in school work, printing cards for educational books and giving advice about organization of school libraries.

The school library exhibit prepared by Miss Ida M. Mendenhall is to be maintained permanently and sent out to state and national meetings. The library hopes to undertake to collect and to organize a model school library. A chapter on library progress is a feature of the commissioner's annual report. A report of school library statistics, issued every five years, is to be issued this year.

A letter was read from Dr Claxton, expressing his interest in library work and the conviction that "the time must soon come when every county will have at least one good central library with



branches within all its villages and cross-roads places and with distributing points in all its schools. In addition to this every school should have a collection of its own."

Willis H. Kerr, librarian State normal school, Emporia, gave a survey of the school library situation. He characterized the situation as one of surprising hopefulness. The following publications have been issued since the last meeting.

Ida M. Mendenhall, Report of the committee on normal school libraries, published as a separate by the National educational association.

Martha Wilson, Books for high schools, an A. L. A. reprint, and Books for elementary schools published by the State department of education, St. Paul.

Mary J. Booth, List of geographical material, which may be obtained free or at small cost, also an A. L. A. reprint.

Mary E. Hall, List on Vocational guidance through the library, also an A. L. A. reprint.

A statement on library service in schools and the status of school librarians was adopted by the library section of the National council of teachers of English at Chicago, on November 28, 1913, and by the Illinois library association at Chicago on December 31, 1913. It was presented to the council of the A. L. A. at Chicago, January 2, 1914, and referred to a committee—(Printed in PUBLIC LIBRARIES: 19:55, Feb. 1914).

School librarians should be organized as a section of the A. L. A. with work outlined and pushed forward from year to year by committees. Library topics should be secured for the general programs at teachers' meetings. A yearly revision of a school library purchase list should be attempted. Facts and statistics are needed in regard to the number of school libraries, how used, how supported, also a study should be made of an elementary school and high school library budget.

Joseph F. Daniels, librarian of the public library at Riverside, Cal., spoke of teaching library work to normal school students in 1896 at the State normal in Greeley, Colorado.

"Southern high schools must have state appropriations for libraries," by Louis R. Wilson, librarian of the University of North Carolina, was read by Miss Petty. In North Carolina, state and town supported high schools have had for support only the meager \$30 provided for elementary schools. The state library commission and the state universities are helping in establishing high school libraries and in North Carolina the establishment of a high school debating league has also helped. Great need is felt for the immediate provision of a state library fund for high schools.

Mrs Pearl W. Kelly, State board of education, Nashville, stated the laws pertaining to school library work in Tennessee. Since 1909, school libraries have been part of the state educational scheme. The state board of education has been authorized to have a department of library extension which urges instruction in the use of books, and in children's literature, makes exhibits and helps to correlate schools with public libraries. The remotest counties of the state have been penetrated. The greatest need is for library instruction in normal schools.

Rosa M. Leeper, Dallas public library, discussed school library work in Texas. A school library law is now being agitated as there is no provision for school libraries. Statistics show there is not one library book per child in the state.

F. K. Walter of the New York state library school stated that during the past year he had tried to get teachers and superintendents to attend library institutes with the result that between 35 and 40 per cent of those attending the institutes were teachers and school people. The courses given the pupils in schools must emphasize the non-technical side of library work, teaching them

to use reference books and the catalog.

Dr Sherman Williams, chief of the school library division, State education department, New York, said there were 11,000 school districts in New York and that all except 43 have school libraries. In rural schools the teacher is the librarian. When any school of high school grade appoints a librarian, \$100 is given by the state. Small communities may unite with the school board and employ a librarian together. The commissioner of education is to make rules in regard to the qualifications of the librarian.

The following officers were unanimously elected:

President, Martha Wilson, St. Paul, Minnesota; vice-president, Joseph F. Daniels, Riverside, California; secretary, Fanny D. Ball, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

#### Round table of Normal school librarians

Miss Mary C. Richardson, State normal school, Castine, Maine, led the round table which convened immediately after the close of the joint session.

Miss Gertrude Buck of the State normal school of Emporia answered the question, Do teacher-librarian graduates find positions? They do find positions but not all as teacher-librarians. At least they get the inspiration of the course and the children in their care get the benefit.

Mrs P. P. Claxton, of Washington, D. C., who was to speak on the need of state supervision for school libraries was unable to be present. Tennessee and Minnesota have a supervisor of school libraries in the department of education. There is a difference of opinion whether this work should be undertaken by the library commissions or by the department of education. The library commissions feel it is their work while teachers feel its force more if it is in the department of education. The library people do not know the work of the schools while the school people are restricted in interests. The teacher knows the children, the librarian knows the books and both should work together.

Miss Lucy E. Fay, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, spoke on the topic "Is there need of standardizing library courses in normal schools?" Only a few schools give adequate training. A committee should be appointed to urge a minimum course of general library lessons, of children's literature and of practical lessons in the grades. There should be a course for rural school teachers and one for high school teachers. Miss Fay was appointed chairman of a committee to make a report on recommended courses at the next meeting.

Miss Julia A. Hopkins, School of library science, Pratt institute, discussed "Some essentials in library instruction." The normal school student should know how to use the library, should have knowledge of the coöperation with public libraries and should be fitted to teach the pupils in his care how to use the library. Restrict reference work to few books and train the students how to select, from a group of books, the best book on the subject. Cataloging, confined to the use of the catalog, should be given to show filing arrangements and the relation of the subjects in the catalog.

The correlation of work is of great importance, classification is not one thing, reference another, cataloging another, but all taken together throw the library open to the student. The work should fit in with the work of the school and make the teacher feel that the library will lighten her work.

The question of getting pupils to read good books was discussed. Displays of new books, lists of over-Sunday books, picture exhibits with books nearby were suggested.

MARY J. BOOTH, Secretary.

#### High school librarians

Immediately after the joint session a round table of high school librarians was called to order by Miss Hadley, Gilbert high school, Winsted, Conn., Miss Newberry acting as secretary.

The first speaker was Prof Emerson of the University of Vermont, who gave

a most inspiring talk on "Some books of value to the high school teacher." Agreeing with an earlier statement that the library was a laboratory and the only laboratory that would be used on thru life, he further stated that it was one great power that could be used to vitalize instruction in the high school. The high school pupils are in what Prof Emerson chose to call the "cyclopedic age." Facts are their domain, therefore encyclopedias, handbooks, etc., must be in the high school library. This is especially necessary for those intending to go to college in order that they may have a proper basis and foundation of facts thru which they can interpret the newer problems. Too often, Prof Emerson reminds us, do these people come to college without a proper knowledge of ordinary geographical and biographical facts. Then, too, there must be the books which will give appreciation of the three great factors of life—literature, art and science. Let there be literature, first and foremost, in which heart and soul appear, be it Shakespeare or Stevenson; art which shows a harmonious, dignified and complete relation of purpose and result, as illustrated in the Pan-American building or in the St. Gaudens statue; and science, the essence of truth, not mere technology, but the narration of the great truths of scientific knowledge. If we send people out with a sense of literature, art and scientific truth then will the library serve as a laboratory thru life.

Miss Cook of the Technical high school, Cleveland, Ohio, mentioned the following titles as being very useful: World's commercial products, Cochrane; Modern industrial progress, Mills; Searchlights on some American industries, Wiley; Foods and their adulteration, Olsen; Pure foods, their adulteration, nutritive value and cost, Kaup; Machine shop practice, Noyes; Handwork in wood, Cyclopedia of modern shop practice. Prof Emerson suggested also such titles as Ashley's British industries, Cunningham's Growth of Eng-

lish industry and commerce, Rogers' Six centuries of work and wages.

Miss Reins of City college, Baltimore, emphasized the fact that pupils should know books other than their textbooks and recommended original sources, "The librarian," she said, "may take him to the wood, but *he* must catch and cook his hare before he can partake thereof."

This discussion was followed by an excellent paper on "Library methods in the high school," by Miss F. M. Hopkins, Central high school, Detroit, Mich., who said in part that the high school librarian meets the pupils at an age when they are most open to the influence of idealism, most anxious to try their wings in lines of self direction, and in the most impressionable age, when a taste for cultural reading can best be formed, or on the reverse side a liking for the commonplace can find its permanent hold. Surely our duty is clear. We must not only make known to him the bibliographical aids that exist but must also reveal to him the wealth of material to which he can turn during his leisure hours.

The meeting adjourned to meet at the luncheon for which Miss Mann had arranged. While this did not prove feasible, thus necessitating the omission of two of the topics all felt that the meeting with others and the consequent exchange of ideas was not only a valuable but delightful close to a most helpful meeting.

M. A. NEWBERRY,

*Maandblad voor Bibliotheekswezen*, The Hague, March, 1914, gives first place to an appreciation of J. F. van Someren, who succeeded Tiele in 1889 as director of the library of the University of Utrecht. The account of van Someren's quarter century of work is written by A. G. Roos, director of the library of the University of Groningen. The bibliography of the writings of van Someren that pertain to books and to library affairs is compiled by G. A. Evers, a member of the library staff of the University of Utrecht.

### League of Library Commissions

The League of library commissions began its annual meeting on Tuesday morning, May 27. An attempt was made to bring under further discussion the varied developments of library extension work. Mr Johnson Brigham of the Iowa state library read a paper on "Our responsibility to the commonwealth" in which he noted the broadening field of library activities and after brief mention of his inability to cover the whole subject, discussed the relation of the Library commission to legislative reference work. Mr Brigham brought out the thought that the commissions of the present day were in danger of being led into activities so widely separate from their original purpose as to hamper the execution of their proper duties. He did not believe that any field was unconnected with the library, but emphasized the need of doing well whatever was undertaken and preferred an intensifying of particular outlines of work to an undue reaching out for new responsibilities.

J. C. R. Honeyman of Regina in discussing the possibilities of the traveling libraries under the new law of the Province of Saskatchewan, gave a brief resumé of the laws governing libraries in general and mentioned the resolution passed by the Provincial library association at its organization meeting. This law requires that all laws relating to the administration of libraries be placed under the minister of education. Mr Honeyman further stated that the need in Saskatchewan was so tremendous and distances were so great that it would take years to make much impression upon the territory. Rural communities and traveling facilities are constantly developing and with them the ease with which libraries may be transported. Everywhere the traveling library has been advertised and the demand is at present greater than the supply. In general Mr Honeyman said a better class of books was demanded by the residents of the country districts than by those

living in cities. In closing the speaker hoped that before very long Saskatchewan might show as great a progress as some of the states represented in the meeting.

Mr Self of Toronto said he hoped those present would not think Mr Honeyman was describing conditions in all of Canada. Ontario has had an active and growing work in library extension of all kinds for a number of years.

The report from the Tennessee traveling libraries was omitted as Miss Skeffington, the librarian of the State library, was not present.

A letter from Dr Grace Hebard of Wyoming State university stated that the university sends out traveling libraries as there is no other association or body in the state to do the work.

John A. Lapp discussed the reasons why the legislative reference library should be a separate department. Mr Lapp's chief contention was that the legislative reference work involved not only the research work which might be done by librarians, but also in its final form the work of drafting bills of important laws and of codifying new measures. This he said required a very close attention to legislative lines of thought and endeavor. In some well known cases he said freely that the work was being better done than might be possible in a separate department. He would advise all new commissions, however, to bend their energies rather to urge the establishment of such a department than to acquire the facilities and authority under the name of commission work.

The "State library as a center of library extension" was handled by Thomas L. Montgomery, state librarian of Pennsylvania. Mr Montgomery in an able paper pointed out the advantage of centralized library activities in an already well established and important department of the state. He did not think that the state librarian could or should conduct personally the numerous activities pertaining to traveling libraries and organization work, but

that these departments in charge of their own chief relieved of other details of administration, could do more effective work under such administration.

The Publicity committee brought in a report chiefly concerned with the study outlines. A statement was made that the committee had proceeded to the point of obtaining promises from most of the Commissions to take a certain number of study outlines if same should be printed in accordance with the specifications of the committee. In taking the matter up with the H. W. Wilson Company the difficulty encountered had been that of securing a competent editor for the series. Mr. Wilson stated his willingness to cooperate in securing an editor recommended by the committee and final action was taken by appointing representatives from each of the states interested to discuss the matter with Mr. Wilson, with power to act.

The Wednesday session was a joint one with the Reference Library section. W. W. Bishop of the Library of Congress read an excellent paper on "How to use the National library in the service of the state." (Oct. *P. L.*) Chas. E. Rush developed the reference function of the small library. See p. 283.

J. I. Wyer of Albany, N. Y., gave a very analytic statement of the reference work which might be done throughout the state.

Thursday morning the League met in final session with the Agricultural Libraries section. Professor W. D. Working of the Bureau of farm management of Washington, D. C., discussed the "County agent and his relation to rural library work." Professor Working had been at much pains to secure letters from a large number of county agents concerning the cooperation already in practice. The chief difficulty in circulating books among rural communities seemed to be the lack of knowledge of the kind of books wanted. In most cases the county agents were convinced of the value of book farming and were willing to welcome the cooperation of the extension bureaus in securing literature

for their constituents. Many found fault with lists of agricultural books, stated the information was inaccurate and not up to date in many books so recommended. Professor Working drew attention to this admitting that he himself had found difficulty with the present publications.

Chas. W. Williams of Missouri developed the necessity of publicity work in cooperation with the county farm adviser. He mentioned the fact that many of those studying the agricultural course by correspondence, were unable to provide themselves with books and mentioned cooperation had been established between the University extension bureau and the Missouri library commission, looking toward a supply of books for these students. Brief accounts of the present state systems for rural work were given by Miss Frances M. Hobart and Miss Mary E. Ahern. This discussion covered the East and the Middle-West as no representative of the far West had been secured for the program.

Clarence S. Hean of the State Agricultural college of Wisconsin developed the necessity for cooperation with the State farmers' institute. Mr. Hean dwelt further upon the necessity for bringing the books to the people and then making the people acquainted with the books.

M. S. Dudgeon of Wisconsin was elected president for 1915. E. B. W.

The following comes from Passiac, N. J.:

Fourteen-year-old Frank Marsh, when arraigned in police court for truancy, soberly gave this explanation:

"I was sitting in a large chair in the public library reading when a very stout woman came in. She picked up a book and then stepped backward a few feet and sat right down on me. I didn't dare holler, because of the signs in the reading rooms which say you will be put out if you make any noise. She kept me there for an hour, judge."

"What?" gasped Judge Costello. Then he let the lad go.



### The A. L. A. Exhibit at Leipzig

From a report from T. W. Koch, in charge of the A. L. A. exhibit at Leipzig, to Dr F. P. Hill, chairman of the committee in charge, the following extracts are taken:

The space allotted to the A. L. A. is of generous size, running from east to west, and measuring 97 by 23 feet. To the south of the A. L. A. exhibit the space is occupied by the Prussian state libraries, under the charge of the Royal library of Berlin.

Another adjoining booth installed by the library of the University of Leipzig contains a charging desk and shows the system in use in that library. Nearby are a model of the Leipzig university library building and numerous pictures of various public and university libraries throughout Germany. Show cases contain some interesting books from these libraries, and there is a special exhibit of the Leipzig workmen's library, and of the indicator in use in the Public *Bücherhalle* in Hamburg.

Several of the party walls dividing our space from that of our neighbors are higher, owing to the requirements of the exhibitors. At the request of Dr Boysen, one of the party walls six metres high was omitted from our section so as not to obstruct the view.

The freight shipment reached the exhibit hall only 48 hours before the official opening of the exposition, so no time was to be lost in making some sort of a showing. As soon as a few boxes were opened, a temporary arrangement of material was made so as to show to the best advantage from the centre aisle down which was to pass the procession of inspectors, headed by His Majesty, King Frederick of Saxony, under whose patronage the International exposition is held.

The trials and tribulations of the first two days could not be recounted here. Confusion reigned throughout the grounds, hundreds of teams were coming and going, shipments were being left at the wrong halls, boxes were being searched for wildly, and a Babel of

strange and excited voices was heard on all sides. We were fortunate in being able to keep our collective shipment together.

There being no artificial light in the hall, we rented a big lamp the night before the opening so as to finish our installation on time. Exhibits that were not ready were to be curtained off, as the King had said that he did not care to come up to Leipzig simply to see a lot of packing boxes, and we had not come over from America to hide our light behind a curtain on the opening day.

By extraordinary efforts, we made quite a brave showing by Wednesday noon. At a quarter to twelve, the A. L. A. representative laid aside his three-fold part of carpenter, decorator and chairman of the hanging committee, and with the aid of a sprinkling can, made a hasty toilet and under cover of some of the above mentioned screens, got into a dress suit. Dressing in a Pullman berth is the height of luxury and ease in comparison to preparing for a reception behind a lumber pile in an exhibition hall where a crowd of people are excitedly and momentarily expecting the arrival of their king.

At high noon, the A. L. A. representative was standing in the centre aisle, fairly properly attired, and there was a tension in the air indicating the approach of the King. There were subdued whispers of "Er kommt. Der König kommt." Down the aisle came a squad of police to clear the way and keep the people at a respectful distance.

The A. L. A. representative was requested to stand out a bit so as to indicate his official position in case his dress failed to indicate it. Dr Volkmann, director of the exposition, preceded the King and explained the nature of the various exhibits.

The King inquired about the Library of Congress and the New York public library, pictures of which were in evidence on the walls, and asked whether we had the same library system in America as they have in Germany. The question was a little vague, but the answer, what-

ever it was, seemed to satisfy the questioner. No sooner had the procession passed than I became conscious of the fact that in replying I had not once made use of the phrase "His Majesty." I apologized to one of the officials for my democratic manner in talking with the King and was assured that I need not be concerned about it as the King was himself very democratic in his ideas.

At the evening reception a high official of the Exposition came to me and expressed the hope that I appreciated the honor of having been presented to the King. I assured him that I did. He then informed me that in arranging for this it was intended to honor America and I was asked to notify my fellow countrymen of the fact.

Since the opening we have been busy with the rearrangement of the exhibit occasioned by the arrival of seven cases of Library Bureau furniture and a case of books for the children's room, and additional material from the Library of Congress. We are still awaiting a large number of photographs and mounts for use on the walls and screens.

The exhibit from the Library of Congress occupies the western booth and consists of eleven large framed pictures of the building, a collection of the Library's publications since 1897 and a 90-tray catalog cabinet containing both the dictionary and systematic catalogs of the bibliographical collection in the Library of Congress. In the installation of this exhibit, as indeed in the work of the entire opening month, we were fortunate in having the assistance of Mr Ernest Kletsch of the Library of Congress staff. On the wall is a large statistical chart showing the growth of libraries in the United States from 1875 to 1913, in which by a graphical method is clearly shown the number of volumes in the libraries in each state for the years 1875, 1885, 1896, 1903 and 1913. In the centre of this booth is a model of a typical small branch library building showing the arrangement of reading rooms and delivery desk to admit of easy supervision. This is mounted on

a platform  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, draped with a large American flag loaned by the American Consulate. The model has attracted a great deal of attention and is especially instructive as there are in nearby spaces models of Assyrian, medieval and eighteenth centuries libraries and also of the reading room of the new Royal library at Berlin, and the close proximity of these models affords the public an opportunity to contrast these different types of libraries.

The eastern end of the A. L. A. space is given up to the exhibit of library work with children, in which visitors have shown a very lively interest. Reading rooms for children are hardly known in Germany, though beginning to be well known in Vienna. About 200 juvenile books are exhibited on shelves and those with the most attractive illustrations are spread open on exhibition ledges or on the small tables of two heights sent over by the Library Bureau. These tables, with the chairs to match, call forth the warmest admiration. Many school children look admiringly at the furniture and linger over the books as well as over the photographs of scenes in various children's libraries that cover the walls of the booth. The illustrated books are much admired and fond mothers have wanted to buy some of them to take home to their own children. Surprise has at times been expressed that we neither sell nor take orders for material exhibited here.

Children ask questions about the Indians they see pictured in Deming's "Little Indian folk." Even the one lone Indian on the back of Willson's "Romance of Canada" called forth a series of questions from one boy as to how many Indians there were in America, whether they were very bad and whether they were to be found in every city. He said that he had seen one in a circus. As a special mark of appreciation this lad promised to return later and show us his English school book. Every juvenile visitor agrees that a special reading room for children must indeed be "sehr schön."

The major part of the centre booths is given up to the work of public libraries, college and university libraries and library architecture with special exhibits on cataloging and binding. Samples are exhibited to show methods of reinforcing books in publishers' bindings, morocco and pigskin backs, the use of Keratol cloth and Holliston buckram.

Trees and hedges are being planted and lawns made. There are beautiful parterres of luxurious flowers down the main avenue and the landscape setting is most delightful. By the time the various A. L. A. parties arrive in mid-summer the exposition will be at its height and the unfinished look of the first month will be a thing forgotten. The richness of the exhibits in the different fields of book-making and the graphic arts will be found surprisingly well set forth in many buildings and in exhibits from many lands. We hope that the regret of the American visitor in finding that his own government took no official part in the exposition and that American publishers have not participated, will be in part offset by seeing the exhibit of the American Library Association. I am sure that visitors will find in this exhibit what the committee has tried to make it,—a fair presentation of modern American library methods, modern equipment, with a suggestion of our historical background and an indication of the lines along which American libraries are developing.

#### Interesting Things in Print

The Brockton (Mass.) public library has issued a list of cheerful books.

A revised edition of the "United States documents in small libraries," by J. I. Wyer, Jr., has been issued by the A. L. A. Publishing Board.

Connecticut public library document No. 1, 1914, contains a very good suggestive program for a library day, particularly for school exercises.

The report of the U. S. Commissioner

of Education for 1913 contains a chapter (14) on "Library activities during 1912-13," by M. E. Ahern, secretary of the American Library Institute.

In a recent number of the *Western Standard*, published at Calgary, Alberta, a most interesting and commendatory writeup of the Public library of Calgary was given.

Bulletin No. 62 from the Bureau of railway economics is a list of publications pertaining to government ownership of railroads. The publications cover government ownership of railroads in all the civilized countries in the world.

A list of certain books which young people find entertaining, under the title, "Reading for pleasure and profit," has been issued in the third and revised edition. This may be had for 10 cents from the Public library of Newark, N. J.

The Detroit public library has issued a list of books for business men, dealing with the subjects of advertising, banking, directories, export trade, profit-sharing, salesmanship, scientific management. A list of periodicals is appended.

The *Library Association Record* for May contains an appreciation of the late James Duff Brown and his work by various librarians acquainted with him and his contribution to the development of library service.

The proceedings of the tenth annual conference on child welfare, held in New Orleans March 15-18, 1914, under the auspices of the child labor committee, has been issued as No. 1 of Vol. 3 under the title, "Child labor a national problem." Price, \$1.

Attention is called to the very useful bibliography, edited by Miss Adelaide R. Hasse, appearing quarterly in the *National Municipal Review*. It lists many items that are needed in public libraries and which are often obtainable free of cost. It supplements for municipal material Miss Imhoff's list of sociological material obtainable free or at small cost, published a few years ago.

"A new chapter in an old story," sent out by the Remington Arms Co., New York, is an interesting account of the development of fire arms from the days of stone hurling, through slings, arrows, down to the modern automatic rifle, noiseless and smokeless. In this era of peace one might wish that the death dealing instrument was not so effective, but the story of its development, beautifully illustrated in colors, is most fascinating.

"The municipal index" is the title of an index to current municipal literature and a list of important books on municipal subjects, issued from August, 1912, to December, 1913, by the *Municipal Journal*, New York City. The subjects covered are: Roads and pavements, Sewerage and sanitation, Water supply, Lighting and power, Fire and police, Government and finance, Street cleaning and refuse disposal, Traffic and transportation, Structures and materials.

A graded and annotated catalog of books in the Public Library of the District of Columbia for the use of the schools in the city has been issued. Any teacher may select or request the library to select one book for each child in her class up to the number of 50, which will be sent to her by the library and called for after a period of two months, unless she desires to retain them for a longer period. The catalog has been prepared for the convenience of the teachers. It is arranged by subjects, and there is an author index.

"The club woman's handybook of club programs and club management," by Kate Louise Roberts, for many years in charge of the club work at the Public library of Newark, N. J., contains lists of topics for programs, outlines of papers, parliamentary rules, book lists on various topics, instruction in the use of the library, etc. This is first hand material which has been compiled by one who through long experience knows the situation and its needs. The "Handybook" ought to be on the list of first purchases in most public libraries, particularly those with small staffs.

The forty-second annual report of the Public library of Grand Rapids, Mich., is a review of the last 10 years in the history of the library.

"Library helps in work for the immigrant," under preparation by the Immigrant education society, has made its appearance through No. 1, "The immigrant and the library, Italian helps, with lists of selected books," by John Foster Carr, author of a "Guide to the United States for the Italian immigrant." The pamphlet may be had for 35c, postpaid, from the Society at 241 Fifth avenue, New York City.

### A Bit of Library History

#### "The county library"

There are certain strong indications that the county library system, as exemplified in California and, much earlier, in one or two Ohio counties, is to show in the near future a remarkable access of vigor and usefulness. But in any event "The county library," by Dr and Mrs Ernest I. Antrim, is a book to command serious attention on the part of library workers, and not unlikely to prove interesting to a wider reading public. The work gives, first, the history of the Brumback library of Van Wert County, Ohio, with a short biography of its founder, the late John Sanford Brumback (Mrs Antrim's father), and a description of its county-wide activities; then, as supplementary to this, a carefully prepared and authoritative account of the county library movement in the United States. The claim of the Brumback library to first place, chronologically, in this movement is established; the methods by which it has, tentatively and experimentally at first, made itself one of the most beneficent institutions of its kind, are explained and illustrated; and the scholarly historical and statistical survey of the whole county library question appropriately closes the book, which is fully illustrated and shows evidence of careful preparation.—(The Pioneer Press, Van Wert, Ohio, \$2.)

### Library meetings

**Massachusetts**—The Worcester meeting of the Massachusetts library club, May 14, on account of the A. L. A. meeting in Washington the same month, was confined to discussion of business.

Mr Belden of the state library commission made acknowledgment of the Massachusetts library club's support of the legislation recommended by the commission, announced the regretted resignation of Miss Zaidee Brown, and the temporary appointment of Miss E. Louise Jones in her place.

Some changes in the constitution were adopted providing that personal membership shall remain at 50 cents a year; sustaining memberships shall be created with dues from \$1 to \$10 a year; institutional memberships at \$5 a year, and life memberships at \$20.

Attention was called to the list compiled by Ida F. Farrar and distributed by the library commission on "Books about America for new Americans."

The following officers were elected:

President—J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., trustee Boston athenæum.

Vice-presidents—Gertrude E. Forrest, Milton public library; Orlando C. Davis, Waltham public library; Charles R. Green, Massachusetts agricultural college, Amherst.

Secretary—John G. Moulton, Haverhill public library.

Treasurer—George L. Lewis, Westfield athenæum.

Recorder—Eugenia M. Henry, Attleboro public library.

**New York**—The annual meeting of the Long Island library club was held at the Arms hotel, Far Rockaway, May 21. The meeting opened with a very thorough and reasonable discussion of a plan for uniting the various library clubs in New York City and vicinity. Many members belong to several and find it difficult to do their duty by any of them. A committee was appointed to consider the question of the continuance of the Long Island library club, with authority to confer with the New York library club as to consolidation. There will be a

special meeting of the club to consider the report of the committee later. The election of officers was postponed until the matter of reorganization was settled, the present officers holding over in the meantime.

Miss Van Valkenburgh of the New York public library gave a delightful talk on "Birds," pointing out that city people in the vicinity of New York had ample opportunity to study them in the parks. She recommended Reed's "Bird guide East of the Rocky Mountains" and "Birds in the city parks."

Mr Frank Place of the New York academy of medicine library gave a paper on "The delights of tramping." He made his audience feel the independence, the beauty of the changing seasons and the benefit to be derived from this antithesis of library work.

The program closed with a paper, "A back yard garden," by Miss Julia Wheelock, Pratt institute free library. Her beautiful description of the little bit of earthly Paradise made up of all varieties of lovely growing things, of memories and of projects to come and of the pleasure given, not only to herself, but to all who see it—friends, maid, plumber, laundress and grocer's boy, it even proving an inspiration to some to go and do likewise, made one realize that inspiration and enthusiasm know no limitations and that a city back yard can be made a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

ELEANOR ROPER,

Secretary.

Under the auspices of the New York library association, an institute was held on May 8 at the Country Life Press, Garden City, N. Y. The attendance was the largest on record, 60 librarians and trustees being registered from some 25 towns. They were all entertained at luncheon as the guests of Doubleday, Page & Company, and to most of them were presented little bunches of spring flowers, and one of the little booklets descriptive of the Country Life Press.

Miss Van Valkenburgh, of the New York public library school, presided at the morning session of the institute. The



principal speakers were Miss Selden and Miss Masterson of the Brooklyn public library, and Miss Hume of Queens Borough library.

After luncheon, the Country Life Press was inspected, Mr F. N. Doubleday and two other members of the firm acting as hosts.

The afternoon session was presided over by Asa Don Dickinson. The principal speaker was Mr Jeffers of the New York public library. Mr Jeffers' talk, illustrated with a dozen or two samples of editions well adapted to library use, was received with great enthusiasm, and the meeting offered a resolution recommending that the New York association should reprint Mr Jeffers' valuable and informing paper, in order that it might have a wider distribution.

**Pennsylvania**—The last meeting of the Pennsylvania library club for the year 1913-1914 was held in the auditorium of the Academy of Natural Sciences on Monday evening, May 11, 1914.

In the absence of the president, Dr Adler, Dr Thomson presided. After disposing of a few items of business, the following ticket for the year 1914-1915 was elected:

President—Thomas Lynch Montgomery.

First vice-president—Frederick N. Morton.

Second vice-president—Anna A. MacDonald.

Secretary—Jean E. Graffen.

Treasurer—Bertha S. Wetzell.

Dr. Thomson introduced Dr Edward J. Nolan of the Academy of Natural History, who gave an interesting and descriptive talk of the men who had made the academy what it is today. Dr Witmer Stone, the ornithologist of the academy, followed Dr Nolan and gave some interesting facts regarding the museum of the academy, past and present. At the close of the meeting the library and museum were open for inspection and all were glad of the opportunity offered to view its treasures.

J. E. GRAFFEN. Secretary.

### Illinois Library Association

The 1914 meeting of the Illinois library association will be held in Springfield, October 21-23. Special attention is being given the program which will cover Work with children; Reaching the public; Assistants' round table; Reference work in large and small libraries and Work for trustees.

### The Keystone State Library Association

#### Autumn meeting

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Keystone State library association will be held at Wernersville, Penn., October 15-17, 1914, with Galen Hall as the headquarters.

The program gives promise of the meeting being the most interesting in the history of the organization. The business session will be held on the evening of October 15, after which there will be an informal social and "get acquainted" session.

The sessions following on Friday and Saturday will have for their general topic the library as an influence on the civic life of the community, and the discussions will be led by Miss Corinne Bacon who will speak of the selection of fiction for public libraries, Miss Alice S. Tyler, director of the Western Reserve library school whose subject will be library extension, Dr Samuel McChord Crothers of Cambridge, Mass., who will discuss certain features of library work from the standpoint of one outside of the profession, Dr Scott Nearing of the University of Pennsylvania whose subject will be "Some recent developments in social and economic literature," and Miss Caroline Griest, reference librarian of the Erie public library, whose paper will be on "The library and civic education."

The usual round table for small libraries has been omitted and in its place will be a roll call of libraries with responses on "The best suggestion of a year." Friday afternoon will be left open for relaxation, recreation, and good cheer.

The last session will close at noon on Saturday, but those who can plan to stay over until Sunday in order to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and the association with their fellow-workers will find it well worth while.

MABEL N. CHAMPLIN.  
Secretary.

### Notes from Foreign Sources Italy

*Verso la Luce!* Palermo, Sicily, is the organ of the Associazione pro Biblioteche Popolari, and Giorgi Gabrielli is editorial secretary. The last numbers received form part of the third volume. This association concerns itself particularly with popular education in Sicily. The sort of problems that it has to deal with may be inferred from the fact that a yearly circulation in a certain "biblioteca popolare" reaching 713 is reported as encouraging. It works in harmony with the Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari, that has its headquarters in Milan.

*La Coltura Popolare*, Milan, is the organ of the Unione Italiana dell'Educazione Popolare, and is now in its fourth year. It contains articles, notes, news, and book reviews.

In March, 1914, a law was introduced in the Italian House of Deputies designed to establish circulating popular libraries in all the communes of the realm. This legislation is exactly in line with the work already done by the Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari. The full text of the proposed law is given in the March number of *La Coltura Popolare*.

The Associazione Nazionale per gli Interessi del Mezzogiorno di Italia (association for the interests of the South of Italy), founded in 1911, has turned its attention to the provision of asylums for children, to the exportation of the products of the soil, and to popular libraries. Popular libraries are designated as "the most efficacious means for uniting around a common educational interest persons who have different po-

litical ideas, but are nevertheless desirous of the general good." These libraries are entrusted to a council, one of whom is, ex-officio, the director of the educational work of the association. The association reserves the right to withdraw its donations of books from libraries that are not adequately administered. The number of books given to a library varies from 150 to 230 volumes, and in the selection special attention is given to the requirements of working people. Sometimes works on agriculture are included. In all, the association has founded 19 libraries and assisted 13.

The Federazione Italiana delle Università Popolari held its fifth national congress in Florence, April 13 to 15, 1914, with Senator F. Pullè as presiding officer. It was reported that many savings banks had contributed to this movement for popular education. Special emphasis was laid on the need of educational work in the smaller industrial and rural centers. An attempt at confederation with the Unione Italiana dell'Educazione Popolare was made, and then the whole matter was referred to the next congress. A special vote was taken on the need of "co-ordinating the spoken word with the book in the teaching of the popular universities." It was said that oral instruction alone could not leave a lasting impression on almost empty minds, but that it needed to be aided and re-inforced by suitable reading. This was considered particularly true of working people. The congress committed itself to the study of the method of supplementing oral teaching with the gratuitous (or almost gratuitous) distribution of appropriate volumes, containing the lessons of each course and constituting at the same time a reward for regular attendance. The Federazione Nazionale was requested to facilitate the purchase of books at the lowest prices by all the federated popular universities. Prof Ettore Fabietti, secretary of the Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari, spoke of circulating libraries as the initial stage in

courses for popular education, and was received with enthusiasm. It was voted to hold a congress in Milan in 1915 to secure mutual understanding and effective coöperation among all the agencies now at work in Italy for the promotion of general education among the people. (*La Cultura Popolare*, April, 1914.)

Edoardo Daneo, the new Italian minister of public instruction, took occasion, as one of his first official acts, to approve and encourage the popular libraries, and he sent out a special communication urging all such libraries to become members of the Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari, Via Pace 10, Milan.

#### Austria

Friedrich Jodl, professor of philosophy in the University of Vienna, was also honorary president of the Wiener Volksbildungsverein. His death, January 26, 1914, has called forth tributes to his work on behalf of popular education, which appear in the *Zentralblatt für Volksbildungswesen*, Stuttgart, March, 1914. "For Jodl it was an ethical duty, that one who had acquired spiritual wealth should give to those who had nothing." But possibly the best tribute to him is a quotation from one of his own addresses made at Reichberg in 1906:

"I am the last to think that progress in technic, or progress in relation to economic capacity and facility, is of the greatest importance even for the founding and strengthening of the ideal life. The person whose urgent necessities are not satisfied, who fights nature with unequal weapons, to whom a certain comfort in living is not assured—such a person is not fitted to enjoy and to create the higher and nobler culture-values. But economic achievements, technical advances, however great and important they may be, cannot accomplish everything. The person must grow from within outward, he must be educated from within outward. Let us also not forget that—in such an age as the present, called with a certain justice the machine-age, an age that demands the

utmost straining of all powers—it is necessary to create in the midst of this monstrous driving and din of machinery a still garden for the individual, where the working person takes cognizance of himself and holds meditative converse with the great spirits of his people and the best of all nations. What we wish, that I can tell you in two words: We do not wish and do not need the overman (Uebermensch); we do not wish and cannot use in our culture the underman (Untermensch), in whatever form he hides himself. To the person who only works is offered the opportunity of making his spirit intimate with the greatest of his people and of making his own the blessings which our culture has created. We wish to help the largest possible circle by intimacy with the best of the nation to a simple and modest humanity. That is our objective point, no matter how difficult it may be, and how many obstacles separate us from the goal. The increasing understanding of our purposes is in my opinion a proof of this, that this thought is a motive power and that it has living fruitfulness."

But the work of popular education was for him a national duty as well: "Therefore we must strive with all our powers for this, that no lethargic propensity to ease or to pessimism may make a nest among our people; to the German people as a whole, as well as to every individual, we must bring the consciousness that it is worth while to keep on the alert for the highest possessions which we have gained and wish to keep."

#### Switzerland

The Pestalozzigesellschaft, Zurich, Switzerland, has issued its seventeenth annual report, 1912-13. The 10 reading rooms belonging to the society were visited 276,410 times during the year. The loans amounted to 118,261 volumes, and Jules Verne was the author most frequently called for. Five courses of lectures were given. A monthly journal was published. Concerts at very low prices for admission were provided.

The Zentralverband of the various Austrian organizations for promoting education among the German-speaking people has arranged an exhibit for encouraging good reading among the young. The societies included in the Zentralverband may borrow this exhibit, as well as collections of pictures, framed and unframed, suitable for wall use.

#### Norway

The death of Haakon Nyhuus, librarian of the Deichmannske Bibliotek, Christiania, Norway, was noted in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for February. A. S. Steenberg pays him a most friendly tribute in *Bogsamlingsbladet*, Copenhagen, for the same month. The last (1912-13) report of his library mentioned his illness and leave of absence. His assistants carried on the work. The loans in 1912 reached 565,000 volumes, and in the first half of 1913 286,000 volumes. Branches, as well as delivery stations are reported. The reading room had 42,000 visitors in the first half of 1913, and the children's reading room had 35,000 visitors for 1912-13. In closing his article, Prof Steenberg said: "He will be missed much in Norway. But also in the other lands of the North, where work is being done to promote library affairs, he will continue to be missed by friends who remember with gratitude the man as he found expression in his ability and in his helpfulness."

#### Denmark

As in previous years, Statens Bogsamlingskomité (state library committee) of Denmark will offer a course for librarians extending over 14 days and beginning August 1. The place is Copenhagen, and instruction is to be given four times a day, and no fees are charged.

*Het Boek*, The Hague, is the second series of *Het Tijdschrift voor Boek- en Bibliotheekswezen*, and is now in its third year under the new name. A Netherlands bibliography (1500-1540) compiled by Wouter Nijhoff, is being published serially. Gutenberg and oth-

ers connected with early printing have been discussed historically this year. Book reviews, notes from libraries, and contents of library periodicals form part of each issue. The editors of *Het Boek* are: C. P. Burger, Jr., V. A. Dela Montague, B. Kruitwagen and W. de Vreese. An "extra" number was issued in April in honor of J. F. van Someren, who completes this year 25 years as director of the library of the University of Utrecht, and the entire number was devoted to matters pertaining to this library. A finely executed portrait of van Someren at his desk precedes the text, and articles descriptive of buildings, books and manuscripts belonging to the library are illustrated.

*Maandblad voor Bibliotheekswezen*, The Hague, April, 1914, is the year book of the Dutch public libraries and reading rooms for 1913. The list of these libraries with the date of opening is as follows: 1892, Utrecht; 1899, Dordrecht; 1903, Groningen; 1905, Leeuwarden; 1906 's-Gravenhage (The Hague); 1907, Rotterdam; 1908, Zutphen, Alkmaar; 1910, Leiden, Sneek, Hilversum; 1911, Appingedam; 1912, Apeldoorn, Zeist, Middelburg; 1913, Amersfoort, Vlissingen, Weesp, Helder, Zaandam, Veendam, Franeker; 1914, Bussum. The several political parties are represented in the administrative boards of these libraries, and government grants of varying amounts are allotted to nearly all of them. The largest of the libraries is that of Rotterdam with 50,000 volumes, and that of Hilversum stands next with 18,000 volumes. Of the libraries listed above, 16 allow free access to the library, the others to the reference books only. The Rotterdam library is free, the membership fee in the others varies from a quarter of a florin to one florin (a florin is 40.2 cents). To those over 18 years of age access to the reading room is free in all the libraries. The largest number of loans in 1913 was in the Dordrecht library, 65,386 volumes; Rotterdam was second with 54,594 volumes, and Utrecht was third with 46,409 volumes. Rotterdam had a

record of 96,550 visitors in 1913; Groningen, of 89,072; and Dordrecht, of 80,000.

L. A.

### \*Library Schools

#### Carnegie library of Atlanta

The school year ended May 23, one week early, in order that the faculty could attend the meeting of the A. L. A.

Miss Stearns of the Wisconsin library commission gave three lectures at the end of the course on "The library militant," "Some phases of the commission work" and the address to the graduating class on "Ideals of library service." This is the seventh year Miss Stearns has made the graduating address.

Twelve graduates received certificates, all of whom have received appointments for the coming year. The graduate association held its annual meeting on the afternoon of May 23. The following officers were elected: President, Katherine Walker, Atlanta; vice-president, Randolph Archer, Talladega; secretary and treasurer, Isabel Stevens, Atlanta; Executive board, Frances Newman and Jane Berkeley.

#### Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

##### Training school for children's librarians

The summer term of the school opened June 8. Twelve junior courses will be given.

Only one senior course, "Administration of children's rooms," by Miss Bogle, will be given.

Miss Mary Wright Plummer, principal of the New York public library school, gave two lectures to the school on May 22. The subjects were "Poetry anthologies for children" and "Development of the public library."

During the week of the A. L. A. conference the Training school had a luncheon at the Hotel Gordon at which 42 students and alumnae and three members of the faculty were present.

\*The reports received were all greatly condensed, owing to lack of space on account of reports of A. L. A. conference. Special appointments will be noted later.—Editor.

### Drexel institute

The Drexel Institute library school association gave a dinner at the New Ebbitt, Washington, D. C., Thursday evening, May 28. Forty-seven were present. Miss Donnelly, former director the school, was the guest of the association. The committee appointed to consider the interests of the school and its graduates reported it had been impossible to arrange for the continuance of the school, but that hope had not been abandoned. A general discussion of the School situation followed and was closed by an appeal from the President to the Alumnae to stand together and do all in their power for the School and the Association.

June 4 was Institute day. President Godfrey made a short address to the seniors of all departments of the Institute. First and second honorable mention was made for scholarship in each department. The Library school honors were carried off by Miss Gretta M. Smith and Miss Clara L. Voigt. There were 17 students graduated from the library school.

Miss Stella T. Doane, '08, has resigned her position at Drexel institute. Since September, 1908, she has served as assistant librarian and instructor in the Library school, doing more and more teaching as time went on. She will be sadly missed by her associates in the library and by the faculty of Drexel institute. Drexel has been fortunate in keeping her for six years and the good wishes, not only of her associates, but of the many students whom she has taught, will follow her to whatever new work she may undertake.

The Director, who now becomes Librarian of Drexel Institute, will be just as glad in the future as she has been in the past to serve in any way that she can the interests of Drexel graduates. Her address during July and August will be 50 Lexington Street, New Britain, Connecticut.

CORINNE BACON,  
Director.



### University of Illinois

The festivities incident to commencement time have this year been overshadowed by the universal grief felt at the university upon the receipt of the news of Katharine L. Sharp's tragic death. Although Miss Sharp was not known personally to most of the present members of the school, her name and services have been too frequently mentioned in the class-rooms not to be wholly familiar to every member of the Illinois school. Upon receipt of the telegram from Dr Melvil Dewey announcing the accident, the University Senate, which was convening regularly on that day, adopted the following minute which was ordered spread upon its records:

The members of the University Senate have learned with deep sorrow of the death of their former colleague, Katharine L. Sharp, for 10 years head librarian, professor of library economy, and director of the Library school, and desire to place on record their appreciation of her services to this university.

As the founder of the library school at Armour Institute, which on her appointment as librarian here became a part of this university, she made a notable contribution to the advancement of her chosen profession. Her administration of the university library was marked by high ideals and great ability and secured for her a distinguished place among the librarians of the country.

With all her scholarly enthusiasm, she had a keen interest in the personal and social welfare of her own pupils and through her efforts for them set for all the students of the university finer and higher standards of social conduct.

Director and Mrs Windsor, Miss Simpson, Miss Hutchins and Mr Janvrin attended the A. L. A. conference at Washington. The alumni reunion, which took the form of a dinner in the Library of Congress café on Wednesday evening, May 27, was attended by 42 graduates and former students of the school. The dinner was followed by a short business meeting at which Anna May Price, '00, now organizer of the Illinois Library extension commission, was elected president.

The following members of the senior class received the degree of B. L. S. from the University of Illinois:

Elizabeth Hamilton Davis, Carbondale, Ill., A. B. 1909.

Stella Belle Galpin, Galesburg, Ill., A. B. 1911.

Louise Fenimore Schwartz, Knoxville, Ill., A. B. 1907.

Rose Roberts Sears, Chicago, Ill., A. B. 1909.

Sabra Elizabeth Stevens, Mahomet, Ill., A. B. 1906.

### Pratt institute

Mrs Charles C. Gärdner, of Newport, formerly Miss Collar of the library school staff, gave two courses of lectures, one on maps and one on indexing. Agnes M. Colt, '07, librarian of the Ferguson library at Stamford, Conn., talked to the students on the financial administration of a library. Anna C. Tyler, '05, of the New York public library, the last lecturer of the term, gave two talks on story telling. Visits to various institutions of different kinds were made by the students the last month in connection with their field work.

The Normal course was offered to meet what seemed to be a need—that for trained librarians who should also be trained teachers. It was recognized from the first that the difficulty would lie in finding enough library school graduates wishing such training to make up the class. Library school students seldom mean to teach, though teaching is often thrust upon them unexpectedly when it is too late to prepare for it. The course obtained a *succès d'estime* from librarians but there have not been many applicants for it. It was found this winter that to carry on the work successfully would need a much larger appropriation another year, and this expenditure the trustees did not feel that the professional support shown justified them in meeting. The course has therefore been withdrawn. Miss Hopkins will continue as one of our lecturers.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE.

### New York public library

The closing senior lecture of the year was given on "Work for children and the children's room," by Annie Carroll Moore. The class had also practice in book selection and visits to assigned libraries with quizzes.

The junior lectures were given on "Library conditions in the Far West," by F. F. Hopper, and "Movements in education" (four lectures), by Louise Connolly of the Newark public library. The juniors' visits at the close of the year included 13 interesting libraries in the vicinity of New York. Several of these were accompanied by special hospitality, greatly appreciated.

The Principal, 15 of the faculty, several seniors and 33 juniors attended the conference at Washington. Several days were spent in sightseeing and library visiting before the sessions began. There were 53 present at the school reunion at the Hotel Gordon, Washington.

Commencement took place June 12, 23 seniors receiving diplomas and 38 certificates. Of the 23 students graduating this year, 12 hold positions in the New York public library and are likely to remain there. The others are placed also. A number of the junior class will have work in the New York public library during the summer.

#### **New York state library**

The summer session began Wednesday, June 3.

The school was represented at the A. L. A. conference in Washington by 3 faculty members and 18 students. Many former students were also in attendance. Those resident in the District of Columbia gave a reception to the New York State library school association in the rooms of the Home Club. Everett R. Perry, librarian of the Los Angeles public library, was elected president and Harriet R. Peck, librarian of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the association for 1914-15.

Leonard W. Hatch, chief of the bureau of statistics and information of the New York State department of labor, spoke to the school on June 2 on "Literature concerning labor." June 10 Royal B. Farnum spoke on "Books on the arts."

A considerable number of librarians who have been attending the A. L. A. conference have recently visited the

school on their return from the conference. The strategic position of Albany as a railroad center makes such visits very easy. It is needless to speak of their value in keeping students and faculty in touch with library work in different parts of the country as well as from other countries. Italy, China, Alberta, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Kansas are represented among the guest book entries of the last few weeks.

F. K. WALTER.

#### **Western Reserve university**

A feature of the course in "The public library and community welfare" was the survey of the territory adjacent to the Woodlawn branch of the Cleveland public library, by library students; about 1,000 households were visited in the four half days scheduled for this work. Tabulation of the results of the investigation will, it is believed, be of value to the future plans of the branch.

Lectures in this course have been given by C. W. Williams, executive secretary of the Cleveland federation of charity and philanthropy, Mildred Chadsey, commissioner of housing in the department of public welfare, S. H. Ranck, Grand Rapids, and Mrs A. S. Hobart, librarian of the Woodlawn branch.

Other lecturers have been Laura H. Wilde, professor of Biblical literature at Lake Erie college, Professor A. B. Severance on general bibliography, Miss Mary Parker, department of household administration of Western Reserve university.

The school enjoyed visits recently from Miss Electra C. Doren, the first director of the school, and Miss Whitteley, her successor.

Commencement week was concluded with the receiving of certificates on June 18. Entrance examinations for 1914-15 were held June 19-20.

#### **Simmons college**

Visits were made during the month to the Brookline public library, and to the Social Service library.

The book selection class enjoyed a lecture on Mrs Mary Schenck Woolman,

and one by H. G. Wadlin. The latter spoke of "The principles of book selections, and aids in selecting;" he sketched also the practice of the Boston public library.

The final courses in Library economy for the year are Indexing and Library administration. In the last named Mr Ward of Boston public library gave an hour to the subject of "Branch libraries" and Miss Hitchler to "The organization of a catalog department."

May 25-June 5 was devoted to the final examinations, and the term closed with commencement on June 10.

Mr Belden, Mr Bolton, Miss Donnelly and Miss Hitchler attended the A. L. A. conference at Washington.

#### **New school**

The Brooklyn public library now offers two courses for training assistants, one to prepare candidates to enter the staff as junior assistants, the other to train them as children's librarians. The two courses will be parallel as far as possible and much of the theoretical instruction will be given in common. No tuition fee will be charged, but the students will be required to furnish their own textbooks at a probable cost of \$10.

Those who complete satisfactorily the entire course and who pass the final examination, will be placed on the eligible list of third grade service, from which appointments are made as vacancies occur in the library staff. Promotion from one grade to another is made possible by passing satisfactorily a grade examination appropriate to the position to be filled, and also by showing a satisfactory record of library experience.

The course for training children's librarians will be open to candidates not less than 20 and not more than 35 years of age, who are in good physical condition. They must have had a year of college work or its equivalent, and must have personal qualifications satisfactory to the chief librarian and the administration committee. Those who satisfactorily complete the prescribed course will be expected to accept appointment at the Brooklyn public library.

Further information will be sent on application to the library.

#### **University of Illinois**

Judging by the advance registration, the summer session at the University of Illinois library school will this year enroll about 30 students. Several states other than Illinois will be represented, including Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. The summer season opens simultaneously with those of the other colleges of the university.

Since the original announcement of the course arrangements have been made whereby Miss Effie Power is to deliver a series of five lectures on children's literature. Miss Anna May Price, organizer of the Illinois Library extension commission, will also give instruction on topics related to library extension and organization.

#### **Ontario**

The Minister of Education of Ontario has authorized a summer school for librarians at the library building, University of Toronto. B. Mabel Dunham, Winifred G. Barnsted and Patricia Speerman will be the instructors. Courses of lectures and addresses will also be provided by well known experts. The school will be absolutely free. All necessary books and supplies are provided by the Department of Education, free of charge. Students residing in Ontario will be provided with free transportation to and from place of residence to Toronto, by the Department. Walter R. Nurse, inspector of public libraries, will supervise all the arrangements.

#### **Denver Public Library and Civil Service**

The Denver public library, which, with all municipal activities, went under civil service a year ago, has been separated from the general classification and given a separate class. The civil service commission has made provision without violating the civil service law for the examination for library service to be set by the library and to be carried out under

its direction. The commission has also agreed that all candidates for this examination must first be passed on favorably by the library commission in order to qualify for examination. In case the library commission cannot fill positions in the public library from the list of local candidates, the commission has also agreed that the library shall have the liberty of filling such positions by those outside of the city or state. The Denver public library has recently classified its service.

### The New Quarters of Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles public library opened on June 1, in new quarters in a modern office building recently completed at Fifth St. and Broadway, in the shopping and business center of the city. While a central, independent library building is still to be achieved, the present removal gives the library for the first time in its history quarters especially designed for library service, and affording convenient and satisfactory facilities for both the public and the staff.

The three upper floors of the building are devoted to the library, with the administrative and business departments grouped, so far as possible, on the lowest floor, the seventh. Here are the offices of the librarian and assistant librarian, the order, cataloging, receiving and branch department rooms, and two public departments — the children's room, on a corner, light and pleasing; and the large newspaper and magazine reading room. The eighth floor is given entirely to the circulation and reference departments, which include also part of the ninth, as a mezzanine floor. The circulation room, fitted with much new equipment, and illuminated from above by a large skylight, is attractive and commodious. The central delivery desk, at entrance, is the dominating feature; facing it is an information desk, and ranged about the sides, under the mezzanine,

the entire circulating collection is available on open shelves. On the mezzanine floor, reached by side stairways, are installed the various special departments, each in charge of a reference librarian; of these departments, three—sociology, industry, and art and music—are now newly established. From the circulation department a broad doorway opens into the large reference room, extending along the Broadway frontage, with many windows, pleasant and well arranged; a teachers' department adjacent gives opportunity for special study and reference work. Close oversight of all users is possible, as the only outside access to both reference and circulation departments is through the turnstile and automatic gates installed on either side of the delivery desk.

On the ninth floor are the workrooms of the library bindery company, which is under a five-year contract to do the library's binding; and a lecture room for the use of the library training class, or special assembly purposes. Excellent provision is made for staff kitchen and lunch-room, and for an attractive staff rest room, and there are storage rooms on different floors. Two library elevators give an exclusive express service.

The process of removal occupied the week of May 25-30, during which time the library, in the old Hamburger quarters, was closed to the public; with holidays in addition, eight days were available for the moving. The method followed was similar to that employed in moving the New York public library; plans were drawn locating every article in the new quarters, and as it was moved each article was labelled in accordance with the plan; all shelves also were designated in a definite manner and the boxes of books labelled to correspond before leaving the Hamburger building. During June 1, the first day of service in the new quarters, the library was overwhelmed by an attendance of 20,000 persons, all eager to resume the book service interrupted by the week's closing.

H. E. H.

### News from the Field East

A valuable collection which Harvard university has recently acquired comprises about 2600 volumes of Mormon literature. The collection was made by E. H. Pierce of Salt Lake City, who began collecting years ago and has continued picking up rare Mormon items with the result that the collection is one which could not be duplicated and is invaluable as a contribution to Western history.

The annual report of the Public library of Pawtucket, R. I., records that 23 per cent of the extension work for the year was pushed outside the central library. This includes a weekly delivery station, opening of small branch, and taking in charge of the high school library. The total circulation was 141,806 v., an increase of 20 per cent. New cards were applied for by 2,373 patrons. There were 18,816 persons using the library on Sundays and holidays. The expenditures were \$19,970.

The annual report of the Public library of Salem, Mass., records as the most important event of 1913 the opening of the south branch of the library building, which with site and furniture cost \$20,800.

The circulation for 1913 was 134,767 v., an increase of 45 per cent over the previous year. The fiction per cent has decreased from 80 to 75 per cent. Two more branch buildings are needed to replace delivery and deposit stations now in school houses.

The annual report of the Public library of Worcester, Mass., records a total circulation of 466,339 v., with 200,934 books on the shelves. The municipal appropriation was \$47,500; the total receipts, \$61,299. Expenditures: books, \$11,138; periodicals, \$1,748; binding, \$4,095; administration, \$31,908.

As the nucleus of an intermediate library, a collection of about 700 books suitable for students of high school age has been placed in the waiting room. The technical reading room for artisans and apprentices is one of the expectations

when the present congested situation shall be relieved by a new building.

A modified accession book has been restored after the abolition of this record had been attempted.

The annual report of the Public library, Somerville, Mass., for 1913 is concerned with the usual matters of report and also the completion of a new and well equipped central building whose floor plans will bear most careful study for economy of construction and administration, and for architectural dignity.

Into this building the main collection was moved during the holidays. In preparation for this change a selection for the new book room of about 40,000 volumes from 100,000 has been made, and three-fifths of them recataloged.

The number of borrowers registered having reached 35,000 in 1912, the re-registration then begun shows 11,175 persons reregistered of the 18,000 actually using the library during the year. One in every five of the 80,000 population is a user of the library.

The total circulation of 555,934 represents a per capita circulation of 6.9. This regular and special work has been accomplished by a total staff of 33 full time persons and a dozen on part time at the central building, and three branches which are only three-quarters of a mile from central and each other. There were 8,761 added and 7,222 withdrawn, making a net total of 109,236. Expenditures for printed matter \$11,814, and for services \$21,822.

The School committee has elected a member of the library reference staff to its teaching force as high school librarian and pays half her salary, half of her time being spent in the high school building and half in the adjoining central library.

### Central Atlantic

Olla B. Ayres, Drexel, '10, has been appointed head cataloger of the library of Cornell university.

Elizabeth L. Kessler, Drexel, '13, has resigned her position as librarian of the Public library at Edgewater, N. J.



Agnes W. Schultze, Drexel, '14, will become reference assistant in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Maud I. Stull, Drexel '14, has been appointed branch assistant in the New York public library.

Florence B. Custer, Drexel, '07, has been appointed librarian of the Passyunk branch of the Free library of Philadelphia.

Laura E. Hanson, Drexel, '97, has taken the position of head cataloger in the library of the College of physicians and surgeons, Philadelphia.

Julia A. Hopkins will go to the Brooklyn public library to take charge of the new training class which is to be organized in September.

Katherine E. Hunt, Drexel, '07, has been appointed assistant in the catalog department of the Free library of Philadelphia.

Mary R. Lingenfelter, Drexel, '14, will take a position September 1 as assistant in the catalog department of the Free library of Philadelphia.

A collection of about 15,000 manuscripts, believed to be the most valuable collection of historical papers from one family in the world, has come into the possession of the Library of Congress. They cover a period of 400 years, and include letters from kings, queens, land grants, political effusions, papal bulls and personal expressions regarding world movements. The papers relate to the correspondence of the noted noble family, the Argenteau.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Osterhout free library records a circulation of 140,308. Number of volumes in the library, 45,157. Additions, 2,784. The library was represented at the Industrial exhibit by a collection of books for adult readers and children; a rack for periodicals, views of the library and other bulletins. A pamphlet giving the history of the library and its work was distributed. Two members of the staff were in attendance in the afternoon and evening. The exhibit lasted for one

week. The library was open on Sundays during the year for readers only. The attendance has been good.

Troy public library, Troy, N. Y., reports for 1913 the largest circulation, 103,267 volumes, in the history of the library. The percentage of increase in the children's department is seventeen, this owing in part to the distribution in the public schools at the end of the year of lists of reading required in the next grade, from the fourth to the eighth. Cards were also distributed on which the books read were to be recorded, and the superintendent of schools authorized the teachers to give credit for reading done during the summer. A branch library was maintained at one of the playgrounds during the season.

The second annual report of the Public library of Rochester, N. Y., the youngest member in the library family of the twenty-five largest cities in the United States, records a circulation for home use of 274,372 v., with 38,321 v. in stock. This library is serving the city through branches. The various distributing stations among the schools rank largely. The library has taken a prominent part in the various municipal exhibits, particularly the child welfare exhibit. Two charts exhibited are reproduced in the report. They deal with the hobbies of 933 boys and what 1,500 school children did between Friday and the following Monday. In both cases reading claims the largest percentage of time.

The report of the Wilmington (Del.) Institute free library for the year ending February 28, 1914, states that owing to lack of funds and for other reasons three distributing stations were dropped during the year. In spite of this, the total circulation of 249,178 shows an increase of 1,514. The number of borrowers at the end of the year was 15,541, an increase of 274.

On January 1 the library started the plan of delivering books by messenger at an expense to the borrower of 5c a volume. This was made possible

through the coöperation of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

The report contains a strong plea for a new building as one of the most crying needs of the city.

The report of the Public library, Elizabeth, N. J., shows an increase of 12 per cent for the year in the home use of books. The 194,438 books circulated make a per capita rate of 2.6. Exclusive of government documents, the library has 37,226, 27,413 of which have been added since January 1, 1910. The Liberty Square branch was opened during the year. At the request of the Playground commission, libraries were maintained at three playgrounds during the summer, but the results did not justify the effort and outlay. The library took part in a local industrial exhibit with very satisfactory results. A collection of mounted pictures for circulation was started as an experiment in October and the use so far made of it is embarrassingly gratifying.

#### Central.

Gretta M. Smith, Drexel '14, has accepted a position as assistant in the Public library of Detroit, Mich.

Leonore A. Tafel, Drexel '14, has been appointed assistant in the Public library of Detroit, Mich.

There will be 17 additional branches of the Chicago public library opened the coming year. Arrangements have been made also to establish a new department of music on the fourth floor of the main building.

Gertrude Cobb, since 1912 librarian of the Public library of Janesville, Wis., has resigned. She will be succeeded by Mary Egan, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and of the library school, who has been in the Public library of Marshfield.

The annual report of the Public library of Decatur, Ill., records the number of volumes on the shelves as 34,728; 1,850 of which were added during the year. The circulation was 110,298 v., of which 31,342 were from the chil-

dren's room and 6,646 through the school collections.

Charles E. Rush, assisted by his wife, presented the greatest number of answers to illustrative proverbs running in a paper in St. Joseph, Mo., thereby securing as a prize a \$750 Maxwell automobile. Mr Rush is quoted as saying that he had to choose between keeping the auto and his two babies, and he naturally chose the latter.

Mrs Louise K. Rose, since 1902 librarian of the Public library of Clinton, Ill., died suddenly at her home in that city May 23. Mrs Rose had attended a number of the meetings of the Illinois library association, and was always interested in the progress of the work. She was interested in literary work of all kinds, and kept the standard of material in her library at a high mark.

W. E. Jillson, for a considerable time librarian of Doane college, Crete, Neb., at present librarian of Ripon college, Ripon, Wis., after a year in the Wisconsin library school, offered, the past year, a course in library methods, planned to furnish librarians for high schools, prepare students for library schools and to fit assistants for the Ripon college library.

The eligible list of employes for the State libraries of Illinois has been certified by the State civil service commission. On the list are the following names:

Carrie C. Patton, Urbana; Fanny A. Noyes, Evanston; Lois A. Johnstone, Springfield; Winnifred E. Fehrenkamp, Champaign; Mattie A. Skogh, Moline; L. Ruth French, Muskegon, Mich.; Lueva Montgomery, Wheaton; Gertrude H. Andrews, Normal; Fannie Dudgeon, Oak Park; Dorothy Myers, Springfield; Lillian Haverhill, Normal; Ruth L. Montgomery, Decatur, and Alice A. Thompson, Columbus, Ind.

The first annual report of the Public library of Evansville, Ind., has been issued. The Public library as such was opened formally, January 1, 1913. The

first year 5,334 borrowers were registered and the circulation for home use was 79,976 v., of which 41,851 were juvenile. Of this the fiction was 41.3 per cent.

The Public library started out with two new buildings, well equipped, and with small but well balanced collections of books. The work with the children in the schools has given most gratifying results. Substations of the library have been placed in several of the outstanding buildings. There were 4,480 v. added during the year.

A gift of \$10,000 was received from Mr Carnegie for a branch building. Lectures were held frequently during the year in the lecture rooms of both buildings. Exhibits also added interest throughout the year.

#### South

Margaret Forgeus, Drexel '06, has been appointed librarian of Meredith college, Raleigh, N. C.

Margaret Little, of the staff of the St. Louis public library, has been appointed children's librarian of the Carnegie library of Houston, Tex.

The annual report of the Public library of Houston, Tex., shows the receipts to be \$10,103; expenditures, \$9,522. There were 117,848 v. issued for home use. Of these, 11,850 v. were circulated through the various distributing agencies throughout the city. The number of books on the shelves is 39,369. There are 17,203 active card holders. The books are carried throughout the city by 12 distributing stations.

The annual report of the Public library of Dallas, Tex., records 41,666 v. on the shelves, of which 4,582 were added during the past year. Many of these are in foreign languages, which have been gratefully received by aliens and in which there was an increase of 250 per cent in circulation. The total circulation was 102,123. Non-fiction per cent of home circulation, 26.6.

The library serves the county within a radius of 10 miles from the postoffice. The registrations for the year

numbered 3,755. Number of live cards, 15,321. Receipts for the year, \$17,712; expenditures, \$16,986. Of this amount, \$6,107 was for salaries; books, \$3,322; periodicals, \$353; binding, \$810.

#### West

John F. Davies, for many years connected with library work in Montana, has been made librarian of the Public library at Butte.

The degree of Litt. D. was conferred upon Chalmers Hadley, with others, by the University of Denver on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

Willis H. Kerr, to whom was offered the presidency of Bellevue college in Nebraska, has declined the position, preferring to continue in library work, particularly in view of the inducements made by the Board of directors of the Kansas state normal school.

The third training class conducted in the Denver public library has just finished its work. There were 37 applicants for entrance. All but 15 candidates were declared ineligible on account of insufficient education or personal qualifications. A competitive examination selected eight to form the class. The course of instruction covered the various divisions of library economy necessary for library work, and during the eight months in which instruction was given the members were assigned for practice work five afternoons a week. Rena Reese, librarian's assistant, was in charge of the course.

The first report of the reorganized Colorado state library commission, which had been inactive for several years, has been issued. No funds are available for any work, so the members of the commission have done all the voluntary work possible. The library commission co-operated with the Colorado civil service commission in the preparation of examination questions for library positions under civil service in Colorado. The questions were prepared, assistance was given in conducting examinations, and the papers were corrected by the com-

mission and the secretary of the civil service commission.

A questionnaire asking for information regarding the work of public libraries, sent out by the commission, shows there are between forty and fifty in the state. Considerable work in library organization and reorganization has been done in various parts. At their own expense the members of the commission have visited 20 public libraries. Close coöperation has been made with the Colorado library association. Two exhibits of books have been made at conventions.

The members of the Colorado library commission are: Chalmers Hadley, Denver, president; Charlotte A. Baker, Fort Collins, secretary; C. Henry Smith, University of Colorado; Albert F. Carter, State teachers' college; Lucy W. Baker, Colorado Springs.

#### Pacific Coast

David R. Moore, for 20 years librarian of the Public library of Berkeley, Cal., died in May. The vacancy has not yet been filled.

Mrs Julia G. Babcock, formerly at the Kern County library, Bakersfield, Cal., has been named librarian of Yolo County, Cal. She succeeds Stella Huntington, who resigned to take a similar position in Santa Clara County.

Mrs James A. Hays, for a number of years well known as reference librarian of the Wisconsin historical society when she was Miss Frances E. Baker, has been appointed a member of the library board at Tacoma, Wash.

The third annual report of the Public library of Salem, Ore., records the first year in the new building. The circulation was 48,409 v., not including the school circulation. The high school circulation was 7,757 and the grades 13,548 v., a total of 69,714 v. for the entire year. The library has been supported by special collections from the state library. A school librarian has been employed by an arrangement between the library board and the school. The lecture course has been

well supported. The receipts for the year were \$5,139; expenditures, \$4,839.

#### Canada

The annual report of the Public library, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, shows a total circulation for the year 1913 of 75,446, with 11,409 books on the shelves and 4,045 borrowers. The special features of the work of this library during the year have been: The inauguration of a "children's story hour," the fixing of regulations to govern applicants for positions on the staff, and a standard scale of salaries. A new policy was inaugurated by the erection of two branch libraries in outlying parts of the city. These buildings exemplify a somewhat novel departure in that they are substantial frame buildings of standard size, namely, 18 feet by 45 feet, and built with the special intention of being moved to new districts when the density of population in the districts in which they are now situated warrants the construction of larger and more permanent edifices. These buildings are placed on concrete foundations containing furnace room, etc., and provide excellent reading rooms and stack rooms and accommodation for the official in charge. They cost equipped about \$3,000 each.

#### Foreign

The Städtische Zentralbibliothek (city central library), Dresden, Germany, has published its third annual report (1912). At the end of the year it had 32,697 volumes, more than 5,000 of them added during the year. The total circulation exceeded 350,000 volumes.

*Bogsamlingsbladet*, Copenhagen, March, 1914, contains an article on the subject catalog by Th. Dössing, and also a list of Northern writings on the history of books compiled by Vilhelm Grundtvig.

A curious gift for a public library was the shell of a turtle which had weighed 350 pounds when caught; also an alligator gar measuring 5 feet 11 inches, weighing 75 pounds.